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Mr. Justice McCardie, at the last Birmingham Assizes, made a striking declaration in which he urged that a system of sterilization of the unfit should be introduced immediately in this country. He said:—

"For years past I have given very wide reading and much thought to the question of feeble-mindedness. It is one of the great outstanding problems of the day, and I have long since come to the conclusion that the people of this country should at once face the need for the introduction of a system of sterilization.

"I know it is said that public speakers refrain from dealing with this subject, first because it is said that the public are not prepared for it; secondly, because the speakers are too modest to deal with it in adequate fashion.

"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. I think it is my duty to make this public declaration."
The Sterilization of the Unfit

By
WALTER M. GALLICCHAN

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CHAPTER I

A NATIONAL PERIL
CHAPTER I
A NATIONAL PERIL

The chief problem for the nations of the West is how to arrest the threatened decay. A few far-sighted legislators recognize the early signs of dissolution; but the student of human evolution, the scientific historian, the psychologist, and the sociologist are fully aware how serious are the indications of racial degeneration and of "the decline of the West." A high state of civilization brings its inevitable perils and evils. The gains do not always sufficiently counterbalance the losses.

Paradoxical as it may seem, "the blessings of civilization" are accompanied by an immense increase in the suicide rate, by the appearance of new forms of bodily and mental disease, by growing social unrest and a tendency to revolt, by a spread of crime, and by unemployment, poverty, and indigence. The most cultured communities expend the largest sums upon alcoholic drinks and drugs; and the habitual use of narcotics can be traced to the anxiety, stress, and repressions that are inseparable, under present conditions, from civilized living.
STERILIZATION OF THE UNFIT

Material prosperity is largely illusive, and life itself is often sacrificed in its attainment.

While we continue to breed as the cavemen bred, automatically and instinctively, and without thought or regard for the new generation, our future outlook is appalling, and the present is full of menace to the individual, society, and the race. We take pride in the "applied science" that enables us to conquer the air, to converse with an acquaintance in New York while seated in a London office, to beat records of speed in locomotion, and to manufacture gases that will depopulate a city of enemies in a few minutes. We excel in the scientific breeding of horses, cows, dogs, cats, pigeons, and rabbits; but the production of superior men and women we leave to chance. The highly prolific Unfit of the Western world are increasing in tens of thousands, while we are concerned with preserving a pure strain of Sealyham terriers and super-Angora rabbits. The average citizen gives little or no thought to humaniculture, the production of superior men and women, efficient for industry, social responsibility, and healthy parentage.

The common apathy in the face of a tremendous national peril is, in itself, a symptom of the general unfitness, which ranges from complete imbecility, insanity, and the minor neuroses to defective intelligence, an arrested curiosity concerning vital matters, the prohibition of thought, aboulia, and a hatred of knowledge. This fatal irresponsibility can only be diminished by persistent advertisement of the fact

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A NATIONAL PERIL

that we are approaching the most alarming crisis in our national history.

Only within the past year or two has the Press of this country shown any inclination to assist a comparatively small and obscure band of patriots, who are apprehensive for the welfare of the State and the community. All discussion of eugenics, the science of human improvement by healthy mating, was taboo in the mass of British journals. The few newspapers that admitted articles on the theme of race regeneration provided handicaps for writers that frequently reduced the text to absurdity. The mention of "sterilization" was the signal for the use of the editorial blue pencil. In popular expositions of Voronoff’s rejuvenation method, “monkey gland” is not explained, and a large number of readers imagine that the gland is the thyroid.

But editors are awakening to the fact that a growing number of the public are beginning to be interested in race improvement, and to-day newspapers with a wide circulation publish articles by well-known eugenists. There are moderately priced books on the subject; but they are not sufficiently advertised. The newspapers are unquestionably the best media for introducing the topic to the mass of the population.

Quite naturally, there has been angry opposition to eugenics. This has arisen through misconception of the term. Propagation of plants and domestic animals has been practised for generations, with
extraordinary results, due entirely to the forethought and intelligence of gardeners and breeders. But human propagation is a psychological, or emotional, process, and not simply and solely the result of the prompting of certain hormone fluids in the body at definite recurrent periods. The fervid, romantic lover is wont to imagine that eugenics endangers freedom in choice of a mate. Such interference with the designs of Eros would be intolerable. No eugenists have recommended such a preposterous measure.

Eugenics stands for sound, healthy procreation, as opposed to dysgenics, or unsound and unhealthy procreation. The main principle of the eugenic reformer is reasonable caution in the selection of a mate. In this teaching there is nothing that should cause resistance in the mind of a normally intelligent man or woman. It is merely a commonsense demand for the exercise of a social conscience in the highly important matter of giving life to offspring that will become citizens of the State.

The affairs of a pair of lovers concern only themselves, so long as they do not unite for the begetting of children. When a man and woman reproduce members of a community, they are under a responsibility to that community. Under the present social practice, a pair of imbeciles can hand on their terrible bane to several children. There are many recorded instances of the production of numerous progeny by feeble-minded parents, to which I shall refer in other
A large number of incurably feeble-minded persons or "aments"—in other words persons lacking mind—produce four or five, or more, illegitimate children, all of whom inherit the parental taint.

Mental deficiency is an inherited misfortune for the individual and society. It is increasing in the higher civilized countries. The segregation of idiots, imbeciles, and the feeble-minded generally cannot alone combat the evil. There are several grades of aments. Some are quite capable of doing simple work, and are able to support themselves. Other types are vicious, amoral, idle, and mischievous, and they become a tax on relatives, or on the nation. Many mental defectives are cunning criminals, habitual tramps, alcoholics, and mendicants, who are often in gaol, or in Poor Law institutions.

An enormous number of feeble-minded men and women are at large, free to propagate their kind in wedlock, or otherwise. It has been suggested that all suspected mental defectives should be rounded up, and confined in institutions, or segregated in colonies. Can the State provide funds for such a costly and vast scheme? It is urged that the feeble-minded, labouring in colonies or workshops, could partly contribute to the cost. There is, however, an immense proportion of aments who are incapable of any task that requires even a moderate reasoning faculty. These incapables must always be kept by the public funds.

A number of mental defectives, that should be
STERILIZATION OF THE UNFIT

certified by the authorities and confined in institutions, are not certified. Persons in the early stage of actual insanity are a menace to the community, and many are not put under restraint until compulsion is employed. In the meantime these psychotics reproduce their kind.

A complete system of segregation would involve an enormous expenditure. At present there are not enough asylums, institutions, and homes to accommodate the ever-increasing number of patients. "The shortage of accommodation for cases both of mental disorder and of mental deficiency continues to cause us grave concern," states the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Board of Control, 1928.

In 1927 the Board of Control drew attention to the fact that there is a serious shortage of institutions and hospitals for the care of the mentally afflicted. "The position has become critical," say the commissioners. It is becoming more critical every year. Serious over-crowding of the hospitals is inevitable.

"The lack of accommodation becomes every year more serious," states the Report of 1928, "and unless a great effort is made in the immediate future to meet the constantly increasing demands for beds, it will become difficult and even impossible to administer the most important sections of the Mental Deficiency Act. Urgent cases are frequently brought to the notice of the Board in which prompt action is necessary both in the interest of the individual and
A NATIONAL PERIL

the community. On 1st January, 1928, the number of cases dealt with under the Act in institutions was 20,429. The number for whom such provision is required, taken at the moderate estimate of one per thousand, is 39,067.’’

The increase of mental defectives is alarming. Local Authorities, during the last six years, have obtained knowledge of 61,522 cases as against 25,470. Owing to the shortage of accommodation in the institutions for Mental Defectives alone, many defectives are sent to mental hospitals. Local Boards in several cases do not realize the serious nature of the situation. The Board of Control point out plainly that ‘‘the untrained and uncontrolled defective, left to himself in a highly organized and competitive society, is a menace to the community.’’

The case is recorded of a family of six mentally defective children born to a feeble-minded mother, the wife of a Welsh collier. All of these children were maintained in institutions at the cost of taxpayers. Other instances are given in the Board of Control Report, 1928, of two families of six, and others of four, in which the mothers are feeble-minded. The community has had the cost of maintaining twenty-nine unfit persons who should never have been born. There is nothing to prevent persons of this type, who are not segregated or sterilized, from producing large families of unfortunates, who, in their turn, may procreate freely.
Mental deficiency is "the cause of much pauperism, degradation, crime, and disease." Training has had some good results; but the number of unteachable idiots, imbeciles, and defectives of low grade is great. It is almost impossible to control the vast number of more or less irresponsible children, who are continually recruiting the ranks of criminals, wastrels, paupers, and prostitutes. There are "carriers" of mental deficiency, who are not recognized as defective, and are therefore not certifiable. There are mentally sane syphilitics, tubercular subjects, and epileptics, who may hand on the fatal defect of arrested mental development to their descendants. Is it not obvious that present methods of restraint, segregation, and education cannot eradicate amentia? If sterilization became the legal practice in the United Kingdom, feeble-mindedness would become rare, and would probably approach extinction in the future.

Extrinsic deficiency of intelligence, due to brain or other injuries, is unavoidable to a large extent. Accidents are often of the nature of "act of God." But hereditary feeble-mindedness can be controlled deliberately and successfully, by the sterilization operation; and there is no other procedure that can be so effective. Society should say: "These unhappy human beings must not be born to burden the community during their lifetime, and to pass on their terrible heritage to coming generations."

We must protect the fit against the incurable unfit.
A NATIONAL PERIL

A large proportion of the mental incapables are living at the public cost, and endangering the future of society. In five big American cities it was estimated that 27 per cent. of criminals are feeble-minded by inheritance. Many aments are without a moral sense; they lack a conception of right and wrong, and are quite untrainable in moral behaviour. These amoral types commit serious as well as minor offences of a criminal character. Among them are obsessional train-wreckers, who place obstacles on railway lines and stand by to watch the derailing of trains and the destruction of life, enjoying the excitement of the disaster with a sadistic zest.

A proportion of mental defectives are impulsive incendiaries, pyromaniacs, who fire hayricks, woods, and commons, and sometimes burn down houses. Mischievous aments, possessing a morbid lust for cruelty to animals, have been detected in maiming cattle.

The simple operation of sterilization is humane. It is practised on entirely sane people of both sexes as a means of rejuvenation, and the results in the vast majority of cases are remarkably beneficial. There is a renewal of physical and mental vigour, a restoration of efficiency for work, improved personal appearance, and the alleviation of many symptoms of premature senility. Vasectomy also cures sexual impotence or subnormal capacity in the majority of instances. But it deprives the subject of generative capacity.

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STERILIZATION OF THE UNFIT

Mental defectives would be benefited by sterilization, as in the case of normal persons who undergo the operation voluntarily. The sterilizing of the hopelessly unfit is the only prophylactic that can be described as radically effective.
CHAPTER II

WHO ARE THE UNFIT?
CHAPTER II

WHO ARE THE UNFIT?

A DEFINITION of normality is very difficult. It has been said by psychologists that the normal person does not exist. Every one of us has some physical or mental abnormal, supernormal or subnormal traits. A high-grade mental defective, or moron, may seem to be a fine example of bodily development and health; but he may be almost irresponsible for his actions, and unable to adjust himself in the social scheme. There are brilliant madmen, "learned" idiots, and artistic degenerates, and there are physically infirm persons who are quite sane, and often very useful in the community.

We speak of a "man of normal intelligence." But according to psychological tests, the average intelligence is remarkably low, and very high intelligence extremely rare. Considerably over a million officers and privates of the United States army were examined in regard to intelligence. The result of carefully planned and conducted tests shows men in Grade A, of very superior intelligence, were only
STERILIZATION OF THE UNFIT

4½ per cent. In the class of superior intelligence the percentage was 9. In average intelligence it was 25, and in low average intelligence 20. There were 10 per cent. of "unteachable men," and 15 of "very inferior intelligence."

Lothrop Stoddart says that the investigation shows "that the average mental age of Americans is only about fourteen, and that forty-five millions, or nearly one half of the whole population, will never develop mental capacity beyond the stage represented by a normal twelve-year-old child; that only thirteen and one-half millions will ever show superior intelligence, and that only four and one-half millions can be considered "talented." This author states that "intelligence is to-day being steadily bred out of the American population." ¹

The same mental status exists in all the civilized nations of our time, and the chief cause is heredity. The normal and the abnormal are intermixed in all of us, and it is difficult in many cases to distinguish one quality from the other. We are breeding in a prodigal manner from the less and the least intelligent members of the community. The higher the type of animal or man, the smaller the increase of offspring; the lower the type the greater the fecundity. There are good and bad aberrant types of human beings. The "stable-minded" man or woman may be of considerably less value in many instances than the variable, "temperamental" neurotics or mattoids.

¹ "The Revolt Against Civilization."
WHO ARE THE UNFIT?

We may admit the stable-minded class as average "normal" persons. Are the unstable, therefore, to be classed as abnormal? They cannot be so classed, because affectability, variability, emotionality, and excitability are so common that they must be rated as normal characteristics. It is only when these character traits are excessively developed that we can class them as abnormal. In extremely exaggerated instances the abnormality must be described as pathological.

The vast and increasing number of psychoneurotics and those who dwell in the borderland between sanity and insanity, is so great that we can scarcely place them in the actually abnormal class. We do not call the child who contracts measles "abnormal." On the authority of some mental physicians, psycho-neurosis in various forms is to-day almost as common a disorder as measles.

There are thousands of hysterical subjects who cannot be placed among the Unfit. Strictly speaking, the Fit are in the minority, if we mean by fitness a very high development of mental efficiency. The neurotic is frequently a superior type of man or woman, who has become a psychic invalid through a conflict arising from a high moral or religious sense. Often it is a question of a combat between Eros and Ethics.

The psychoneurotic, or neuropathic, subject is entirely cognizant of his mental state, and is puzzled to explain it. He may imagine that he is a very
guilty man, through a happening, usually of a sexual nature, that occurred in his youth. A medical friend told me of the strange phobia of a patient who would not hold a live bird in his hand for £1,000. There are sane hypochondriacs and obsessional neurotics, people who are, in some cases, eminently capable in a profession or trade. Claustrophobists who fear confined places, and agarophobists who dread open spaces, are fairly common in all classes of society. Many of us, who claim entire sanity, are monophobists, afraid of being alone.

There is an enormous army of chronic alcoholic addicts, who are judged as quite responsible beings, and some attain celebrity for genius and talent in various activities. Sexually inverted persons of both sexes, of the congenital type (homosexuals), are probably 2 per cent. of the population, and the acquired forms of inversion are probably more numerous. Sex perversion is classed as an abnormality; but its manifestations are extremely common, and some appear to indicate mental degeneration, such as necrophilia, exaggerated sadistic impulses, bestiality, and obsessional exhibitionism. Nevertheless, we regard the mass of perverts indiscriminately as responsible members of the community, and punish their offences severely. Undoubtedly, a considerable number of sexually perverted men and women are fully responsible beings, and apart from their unfortunate tendencies they are frequently useful citizens. The range of sexual idiosyncrasy is so wide and
WHO ARE THE UNFIT?

variable that "perversion" is not always readily defined. Many aberrant practices are survivals of primitive impulses, which are now under moral or aesthetic condemnation.

People of the neurotic constitution are probably 70 per cent. of the population, though one of my medical friends thinks that 80 per cent. is the lowest estimate of actually psychoneurotic subjects. Taking the mentally ill alone—for all neurotic persons are not necessarily psychoneurotic in the pathological sense—the proportion is very high in Europe and America. And whereas many of these persons are intellectually above the average, a number of them are borderline cases of insanity, likely to develop psychosis, and to become progenitors of mentally disordered children.

Nevertheless, the psychoneurotics are entirely responsible, and to class them as unfit parents would mean that about 50 per cent. of the community should be under control or inhibited from procreation. It is not essential here to discuss the question of the alleged association of insanity with genius. There have been men and women of genius who have shown actual stigmata of insanity; but, on the other hand, a larger proportion of illustrious geniuses have been supreme examples of a mental superiority approaching perfection.
STERILIZATION OF THE UNFIT

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

No two individuals are mentally quite alike. Any attempt to classify types must be tentative, through the great variability in emotion, temperament, aptitude, and character trends. Among the sane we have divergent types, eccentrics, stable-minded and unstable-minded, tough-minded and tender-minded, malcontents with life, philosophic pessimists, imperturbable optimists, spendthrifts and misers. In the social and moral sense, some of these citizens are more or less anti-social and immoral, and some are criminal offenders. But they are capable of protecting themselves, following a profession or craft, and comprehending the codes of society and the nature of legal prohibitions.

In the defective class we include "those whose mentality is such as to render independent and efficient adaptation impossible, and who consequently need some form of special surroundings or some degree of external assistance, control, or supervision." ¹ The mentally deficient may be divided into three main classes. In the first are persons of marked subnormal mental development, which renders them incapable. In class two are the defectives who may be called normally developed, but whose minds are temporarily incapable. According to the latest Report of the Mental Deficiency

¹ "Report of Mental Deficiency Committee, 1929," p. 7.
WHO ARE THE UNFIT?

Committee, the third class is composed of "those whose minds have similarly reached normal development, but who are undergoing progressive deterioration and decay."

The Ament has been described as a man born poor in intelligence, and incapable of becoming rich, while the Dement is one who was born rich, but has become poor. The first is without mind; the second is de-mented, or "from mind." Dr. A. F. Tredgold defines amentia as "a state of mental defect from birth, or from an early age, due to incomplete cerebral development, in consequence of which the person affected is unable to perform his duties as a member of society in the position of life in which he is called." 1

Amentia is a diseased condition of mind, and not simply a sign of mental divergence from type, or eccentricity of behaviour. The feeble-minded are sufferers from a congenitally impoverished reasoning faculty or from arrested brain development. The term amentia includes idiots, imbeciles, and the feeble-minded, or high-grade defectives.

THE PREVALENCE OF UNFITNESS

It was stated some years ago by Dr. Tredgold and others, that the official returns of the feeble-minded of any country were "so unreliable and incomplete that no useful purpose would be served by quoting

1 "Mental Deficiency: Amentia," p. 2.
STERILIZATION OF THE UNFIT

them.” In 1904 nine areas in England, two in Wales, one in Scotland, and four in Ireland were examined, the aggregate population of the areas being 3,873,151. In sixteen areas the mean average of amentia was 38.28 per 1,000 of the population. The highest incidence, over 4 per 1,000, was in Dublin, Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Lincolnshire, and Galway.

The lowest rate, under 3 per 1,000 persons, was in Hull, Glasgow, Belfast, Durham, and Cork. An approximate estimate of Dr. Tredgold, in 1906, shows the number of aments 138,529. One in every 248 persons was feeble-minded. In an appendix to his valuable work, he states that beyond the 11,270 aments, certified at that date under the Lunacy Acts, there were at least 5 per cent. among the inmates of county and borough asylums, approximately 4,450. At the time of this inquiry, Dr. Tredgold estimated that the number of defectives “urgently in need of provision at the present time, inclusive of feeble-minded children,” was 61,525.

The 1929 Report of the Mental Deficiency Committee has many alarming facts relative to the prevalence of feeble-mindedness, imbecility, and idiocy. In six areas there were 8.7 mental defectives per 1,000 population. Approximately one half of these are adults and the other half children. This estimate does not refer to the whole country, but to the areas examined. It was found that of the 4.18

WHO ARE THE UNFIT?

per cent. of affected children 3.36 were feeble-minded, 67 imbeciles, and 15 idiots.

In a mining district there were 18.69 per 1,000 children between the ages of seven and sixteen in the school population. There is very little difference in the proportion of amentia between the two sexes, though in a cotton town and a Welsh area, the girls exceeded the number of boys. In the former area there was the highest incidence among adults, 3.65 per 1,000 total population, and the mining region was 3.41.

Taking the whole of England and Wales, the mean incidence of mental deficiency is about 8 per 1,000 population. The latest estimate of the number of the mentally unfit is double that of the report of the Royal Commission in 1906. Mental deficiency has increased in the rural districts during the past twenty years, chiefly through the fact that the feeble-minded are not adventurous, and do not migrate to the towns to any large extent. There are now approximately 288,600 adult and child aments of all grades and ages in England and Wales. Within the meaning of the Mental Deficiency Act the full number of persons of all ages who are alive in England and Wales would be 250,000.

The irresponsibility of the ament class is shown by the rate of illegitimate births. In most cases these unwanted and incapable children are supported by the State. The following, from the Board of

1 See Chapter III, Report for 1929.

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Control Report, 1927, is a typical instance of the fatal heritage of amentia:

"Mentally defective woman, had seven illegitimate children.

1. Daughter, aged 24, low grade, feeble-minded, under care in Mental Deficiency Institution since October, 1925; has had an illegitimate child.

2. Son, in Industrial School, mental condition not known.


4. Daughter, aged 12, now an inmate of Residential Special School after having contracted venereal disease.

5. Daughter, aged 11, low grade, feeble-minded, inmate of Residential School since February, 1927.

6. Son, aged 8, feeble-minded, inmate of Mental Deficiency Institution since February, 1927."

The investigator for the Board comments: "No one can dispute that mental deficiency is the fundamental cause of much pauperism and of a great deal of petty and serious crime. It is also the fundamental cause of much inebriety. Mental deficiency is intimately allied with insanity. Further, mentally defective parents do not and cannot respond to the health and hygienic instruction which is having so great an influence."
WHO ARE THE UNFIT?

Mental defectives are not classified as lunatics. They have not lost what they never possessed, a normal reasoning capacity. Besides the vast army of idiots, imbeciles, and the feeble-minded, we have a large host of insane persons in public and private institutions, hospitals, and nursing homes. In England and Wales, in 1928, there were 138,293 notified insane persons under control. There was an increase of 1,667 cases in 1927.

A considerable proportion of congenital defectives become insane. Among the congenitally normal persons, who develop insanity, many are married and have had families before being certified as positively psychotic cases. Epileptics marry, and hand on epilepsy or mental disorder to their heirs. This disease is probably psychogenic, or of mental origin, in the opinion of some psychological inquirers. It is certainly a cause of amentia in offspring. Epilepsy of a severe form may produce mental degeneration and dementia, and the stress of modern life is a contributing factor to this malady. The children of epileptics who are born aments are among the most serious cases.
CHAPTER III

THE MENACE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED
CHAPTER III
THE MENACE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED

In this chapter I will set down briefly the results of scientific expert inquiry into the causes, exciting factors, and signs of mental deficiency of various types. Arrested development of the mind is shown in its severest examples in the idiot, who in the adult age possesses the intelligence of a child of three years. In imbecility there is a slightly higher cerebral development and glimmerings of reasoning faculty. The moron is a more intelligent person than the idiot or imbecile, but his mind is plainly undeveloped and his behaviour often childish and irresponsible.

THE CAUSES OF AMENTIA

Primary, intrinsic, or inherent mental defectiveness has a subtle cause in the generative cells; but there are many contributing or exciting factors. It is generally accepted by investigators in all countries that the ament possesses imperfect brain cells. There are various factors that may produce this state of cerebral maldevelopment or arrest. Among them are disorders of the nervous system in the parents,
STERILIZATION OF THE UNFIT

tuberculosis, chronic inebriety, and syphilis. The marriage of near kin, especially of a similar physical and mental type, is another admitted factor.

It is considered that the age of parents at the time of procreation is a cause of amentia in some cases. It has been proved by research that the children of a man under twenty or over forty are likely to be feeble as compared with those of a father of from twenty-five to forty, and that the same applies to the children born to women over forty. Matthews Duncan believed that very early and late marriage were causes of idiocy.¹

Hereditary feeble-mindedness descends from one or both parents, and it is probably as frequent in one sex as in the other. The largest proportion of aments inherit their disability from parents suffering from nervous maladies. The family history generally shows insanity or epilepsy, and the tendency to feeble-minded symptoms may be traced to paralysis in the stock.

The relation of alcoholic intemperance in the progenitors is very marked. Many of the cases are traceable to a heritage derived from parents who were habitual topers. Dr. Tredgold is, however, of the opinion that alcoholism alone is "rarely the immediate and sole cause of amentia, although where other factors exist—particularly neuropathic heredity—it is a most important contributory agent."

¹ See Dr. A. F. Tredgold, op. cit., Chapter III, for a full inquiry of causation.
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It seems to be proved that the poison of alcohol acts upon the embryo in the womb of a woman who is a constant and excessive drinker, and the result on offspring may be mental degeneration in its most severe forms. Another racial poison, syphilis, is contributory to some cases of amentia. Consumption is often noted in the parents and relatives of the feeble-minded.

Tuberculosis, combined with alcoholism and nervous disease, probably accounts for most cases of amentia. There does not appear to be one sole cause for mental deficiency, but varied factors and contributing accessories.

SECONDARY OR EXTRINSIC AMENTIA

Arrested mental development is often the consequence of injury after birth, whereas primary mental defectiveness is intrinsic, and arises from the germ plasm. A pregnant woman exposed to emotional shock or physical injury may give birth to a mentally feeble child. Semi-starved mothers cannot produce physically and mentally sound children. Injury may occur during birth, giving rise to mental defect in offspring, and some authorities rate this factor as rather high. Complicated parturition, and in a few cases the use of forceps, may contribute to deficiency of mind in the infant. In some cases there is very severe injury to the brain. But a hereditary taint in the parents usually exists.
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The agents of amentia after birth are traumatic, i.e., physical injuries, and poisons, epilepsy and under-nourishment. The effect of malnutrition is often seen in rickets, feeble-mindedness and cretinism.

PHYSICAL STIGMATA OF MENTAL DEFICIENCY

The defective subject has certain aberrations or peculiarities of bodily structure. Unusual development of the bones is a common characteristic. There is often marked abnormality in the formation of the skull, and under-development of occipital region is commonly seen. In serious amentia cases abnormalities of the palate are present in a large proportion. There is also frequent malformation or abnormality of the jaw, and the teeth are generally ill-formed.

Many mental defectives seem to "throw back" to animal types, and retain a large amount of the bodily hair covering. Abnormal genital organs are fairly common among aments, the penis being often rudimentary and the testicles undescended. In females there are corresponding anomalies of the generative parts. Some women idiots do not menstruate.

Regarding the procreative capacity of the feeble-minded, it has been long noted that the high-grade type are remarkably prolific. This is a natural anomaly of very fatal import, as the case-histories of ament families show plainly.
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Lustful idiots, imbeciles, and the mentally deficient generally would breed an enormous number of totally unfit offspring if uncontrolled by law. The ament girls need protection against the class of base males who often take advantage of their weak-mindedness and seduce them. It is also a well-established fact that mentally defective females are a very high proportion of the demi-monde and of common street-walkers. These unfortunates are more likely to contract venereal diseases, and to spread them among the populace, than the sane prostitutes.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE MENTAL DEFECTIVE

The feeble-minded subject of the primary type shows infantile signs of his heritage. In 1928 the Departmental Committee on Defective and Epileptic Children found that 1 per cent. of school children were mental incapables, who could not be placed in the idiot or imbecile class, but who were unable to benefit by ordinary methods of school teaching. Dr. Tredgold estimates the number of defective children as "0.73 per cent. of the children on the registers of public elementary schools." The approximate total number of these children was 50,665 in 1908.

The skulls of primary aments are frequently abnormal. The brain is inherently feeble or pathological, and cannot concentrate or reason normally. Deafness and defective sight are noted in a considerable number of cases. As a rule the feeble-minded
child is notably unimaginative. He is emotionally weak, and he lacks humour. Such children can be educated in a certain elementary degree, and those in the highest grade may be dexterous in manual work, and can learn to write a letter and to add figures.

In the lowest grade of feeble-mindedness there is a close relationship to imbecility, and incapacity for learning anything but the very simplest letters and figures. "The backward child" is usually classed as normal, but intellectually dull. These children may be fairly capable of some kinds of work requiring little mental initiative. In most cases there is physical lesion or mal-development as a root cause of the dull-wittedness.

The true ament, of the feeble-minded or higher grade, is to be seen almost everywhere in town or country. In most villages there are one or two inhabitants who are variously described as "not all there," "button-short," "half-mazed," or "a bit dotty." These persons are often inoffensive, and employed in odd jobs, unskilled labour, errands, etc. There are others who are chronically work-shy, hardened loafers, and cadgers. Comparatively few of these types are to be seen in big towns, where the chances of earning any sort of a living are against them.

As workers the mental defectives are notorious muddlers, and unless it is an occupation of a purely mechanical kind they require constant supervision.
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They are mostly quite unoriginal. They are not able to manage their own affairs prudently. Hence many feeble-minded persons are a continual burden and tax upon relatives. Many drift into petty crime, show mischievous and malignant traits, follow the tramping life, and become inveterate beggars.

THE MORON

This term has been given to the high-grade mental defectives, or those who may be called feeble-minded, possessing a certain aptitude for earning a partial or complete livelihood, and a moderate degree of intelligence. Morons have been described as among the happiest people in the civilized communities. It is the cheerfulness, or the placidity, born of a lack of social responsibility, a very feeble, or absent, moral sense, a want of imagination, deficiency of sympathy, and no ambition.

These "low-brows" abound in the West. Modern civilization appears to foster their production. They are in every class of society from the highest aristocracy to the submerged class in the worst slums of the cities.

A moron woman frequently wins a considerable share of this world's comforts, and even luxuries, through the possession of a pretty face and an air of childish disingenuousness. A fairly large number of moron girls marry, and it has been stated ironically that a truly intellectual, plain-featured woman has a
poorer chance of matrimony than a cunning, good-looking, high-grade defective.

There are no intellectual, moral, religious, or deeply emotional problems for the moron. Unlike the psychoneurotic, who is generally a hypersensitive person, with ethical ideals and a tender conscience, the mental defective of the higher grade is partly or entirely without a sense of morality and an appreciation of the laws of the State and the codes of society. Morons are often attracted to queer pietistic sects, with crude or grotesque creeds and practices. There are two or three mental degenerates in most of these "gatherings."

**THE MORAL IMBECILE**

A very large number of "normal" men and women have a very attenuated sense of right and wrong. They are deterred, to some extent, by fear of the law or by public opinion from committing serious offences, but they are shameless in the commission of minor frauds, social misdemeanours, and vices. The moral imbecile, or amoral individual, in the legal sense, is irresponsible in his behaviour. He has no ethical standard, no understanding of honesty and rectitude. Women of this type are innate pathological liars. Amoral subjects commit many gross sexual offences, and are often brought into the police courts on serious charges. The sentences passed upon them are often severe, the terms of imprison-
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ment long, and the cost to the nation enormous. The irresponsible criminal should not be punished, but sterilized, and segregated from the community.

An entire absence of ethical perception, or "moral insanity," may occur in persons who were once sane, but have lost the moral sense. The primary amoral ament has never possessed moral responsibility.

"In the case of sexual crimes," states Professor Iwan Bloch, "we must always have to do with individuals to whom more good could be done by medical influence than by imprisonment; we must entrust the physician with the duty of protecting society against such offenders. 'In this province, physicians will become the judges of the future,' says M. Hirschfeld most justly."¹

The question of "diminished responsibility" is of enormous social importance. Much cruelty and injustice is inflicted upon morally irresponsible individuals, who should be regarded as invalids. A host of habitual criminals (recidivists) are moral defectives. They are in many cases the progenitors of offenders of an even worse type. Some live to an advanced age, and are constantly in the hands of the police.

Only the extremely marked cases of moral irresponsibility come under the care of the physician, or legal control. Moral degeneracy is largely the consequence of environment and of miseducation in the home and the school; but its root cause is mental


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degeneration through heredity. Preaching morality or religion must fail inevitably in the case of the hereditary moral imbecile. The ill-born can, in some instances, be patched up, as it were, and slightly improved. But the only radical remedy for moral degeneracy is to forbid the breeding of degenerates. In the old days the criminal was killed. A more just and humane method of diminishing crime is to inhibit the production of mentally irresponsible criminal types.

"Failure in social adaptability is the only real criterion"¹ in mental defectiveness. The moral incapable is a burden on his generation and a problem for posterity. Through no fault of his own, he is a complete failure as a worthy member of a socialized community. Should such types be permitted to pass on their fatal degenerative characteristics?

MATTOIDS

"The half-fool," or mattoid, is often a reformer, with a bizarre remedy for the ills of the community, or a would-be founder of a new fantastic religion. In "a mad world" it is hardly easy to define sanity. But the mattoid is a responsible person in the legal sense. Whether he is a menace or otherwise depends upon his social behaviour. He may be a militant anarchist, or a perfectly harmless mystic. Some

¹ "Report of Committee," 1929.
humanitarians of the extravagant type are harmful, though their intention may be honest enough.

Max Nordau classed the mattoids as degenerates. An eccentric person is not necessarily a degenerate being. Divergent types of men and women have done much for morality, and a nation composed entirely of the stable-minded, the conventional, and the anti-progressive would soon decay and perish. Every new doctrine has been denounced as absurd since men began to think. But the "absurd" theory or hypothesis often becomes respected as an amazing scientific discovery.

Deviates and erratics may work good or evil wittingly or unwittingly, and precisely the same can be said for normal, ordinary, commonplace folk. As J. S. Mill announced, eccentricity of conduct should be encouraged. We are in many respects too powerfully dominated by the herd instinct, and too slavish in our conventions. Divergence from type may be healthy or unhealthy. We must discriminate between the genius of potential or actual worth and the empty megalomaniac, who is frequently a peril. A fluent half-wit is respected as a demi-god among a crowd of half-fools.

Epilepsy and Heredity

Epilepsy in very young children leads often to severe or minor forms of amentia. The victims of this mysterious disease do not necessarily become
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insane or feeble-minded, but they may pass on a tendency to psychotic or neurotic disorder to their children. A considerable number of eminent men and women have been epileptics.

Epilepsy is inherited in the vast majority of cases. There is often a record of mental illness in the family stock; but apparently the first onset of the fits is sometimes associated with injury to the brain, and it is suspected by some modern abnormal psychological investigators that deep emotional conflicts may be a cause. The indications of an epileptic tendency are noted in early childhood in most instances; and occasionally the patient is in a high state of excitement before the outbreak of a fit. There is often a succession of fits, followed by depression or half stupor.

Epileptics often become insane, or demented, and the disease is then very intractable to any form of treatment. It has been found that the fits may cease when amentia has set in with definite signs. Convulsions in children is attributed to hereditary defect, and may develop into epilepsy.

CRETINISM

This malady is associated with a defective or absent secretion of the thyroid gland. It produces mental decay in most instances, and there are marked physical stigmata, such as a huge skull, swollen lips and tongue, and bow legs. Cretinous subjects may
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be very low-grade idiots, deaf and dumb, and with hardly a glimmer of intelligence. In the higher grade, there are cretins capable of simple kinds of labour. In the endemic form of the disorder, goitre is present. Cretinism is traced to hereditary factors in a proportion of cases.
CHAPTER IV

THE HERITAGE OF MADNESS
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THE HERITAGE OF MADNESS

Heredity is the primary cause of insanity, other factors being contributory or accessory. Mental disorder may be inherited directly, or collaterally, and there is always a history of actual psychosis, epilepsy, pathological inebriety, syphilis, or nervous disease in the family stock. The contributing causes are many. The age of puberty, with its emotional stresses, may prove a fatal period when there is a bad heredity. The change of life in women is often associated with symptoms of insanity. Pregnancy is also a factor where the psychotic tendency exists.

All the common ills of life may induce insanity in certain cases where there is an inherited predisposition. Love troubles, money worries, grief, alcoholic excess, auto-intoxication, and uterine affections are secondary causes.

There are several forms of mental disease, ranging from simple mania to dementia praecox. The disorder may be recurrent or chronic. Persons discharged from mental hospitals as cured may procreate insane or feeble-minded offspring.

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THE MANIAC

Charles Lamb said that no man knows what happiness is until he has been mad. In mania there is often great exuberance and excitement, with exalted ideas and physical restlessness. An unusual degree of irritability, insomnia, and alternating depression are among the first signs of oncoming mania. The patient is not "shut in" like the melancholic, but voluble, active, and sometimes violent. The disorder may not be suspected by relatives until the symptoms become very marked, and the maniac may be able to conduct his affairs, and is possessed with extreme energy. Often there is heightened sexual libido, leading to extravagant love-making or promiscuous sex relations.

A considerable number of cases of simple mania improve under treatment, and recoveries are not uncommon. In severer forms, this type of insanity is marked by more serious symptoms. There may be a total loss of control, destructiveness, uncleanness, and suicidal impulses. In the manic-depressive form the disorder is recurrent, or there are lucid interludes between extreme depression and excitement.

The existence of latent insanity renders the individual dangerous to society, inasmuch as he may reproduce his tendency and blight his posterity. Heightened eroticism leads to reckless sex relations,
THE HERITAGE OF MADNESS

and many insane, or half-insane, men and women are sexual perverts. Morbid sexuality has been associated with an epileptic heredity by Lombroso. Epileptics are found among the exhibitionists who are often in the police courts. This mania is allied to the morbid obsessional impulses, such as throwing paint or ink on women’s clothes, cutting hair plaits, and kleptomania. The subjects are frequently quite sane apart from the compulsions, which are very difficult to subdue.

The manic-depressive form of this mental disease is common. The chief symptom is alternating exaltation and depression. Megalomaniacs and egomaniacs are often very optimistic, cheerful individuals who possess a delusion of greatness or of supreme virtue. Some egomaniacs believe that they are directly inspired by Heaven, and the psychoanalysts have studied the not uncommon “Jehovah complex,” which is derived from a tremendous sense of self-importance, capability, or almightiness.

There are a number of reputedly normal persons who suffer unconsciously from this complex. They are often in control of large business houses, or they become self-appointed guardians of public morals and leaders of eccentric religious sects.

There are many historic megalomaniacs, great military rulers, legislators, and artists. But they are not classed as insane.
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MELANCHOLIA

This disease is of an emotional character, and is often accompanied by a deep feeling of guilt and unworthiness. Probably the primary cause of the profound depression is to be sought in the unconscious mind. The tendency to melancholy is inherited, and the secondary factors may be physical. There is an enfeeblement of the will, with mental confusion or stupor. Self-absorption is manifest, and there is a disregard for the feelings of relatives and friends. The patient complains of internal pains, and imagines that he has an intestinal growth or other serious symptoms.

The melancholic subject is apt to hear hallucinatory voices, and to see fantastic figures. There is often a suicidal impulse. The disorder is frequently recurrent, and patients who are discharged from mental institutions as cured often return after the lapse of years. The religious type of melancholic is usually the most difficult to treat in institutions.

Aments are prone to melancholic attacks and delusions or hallucinations, and some become incurably insane.

DEMENTIA PRÆCOX

Primary dementia, schizophrenia, or dementia præcox is a disorder of the mind, apt to occur more often in youth and early adult life than at any other
period. The disease has been very carefully studied by Kraepelin and other psychiatrists during the past fifty years. Many apparently bright and promising children develop dementia at or about the age of puberty.

There is generally a rapid degeneration of the mental faculties, though previously to the onset of definite manifestations, the patient may have been quite intelligent, and even talented.

Heredity from a defective stock is the prime cause of this serious psychic malady. Various causes excite or contribute, and there may be brain injury. The chief sign in dementia praecox is "negativism," a state of apathy, and a flight from the realities of life. Other signs are delusions of physical disorders, recurrent activity and idleness, and depression. These handicaps make the sufferer unfit to bear the burdens of life.

In severe forms, the disorder takes the form of stupor and complete helplessness. The patient may be unable to wash and dress himself, and is utterly disregardless of bodily cleanliness. Demented persons are extremely obstinate and intractable in some instances. In katatonic dementia there is loss of control over the muscular system, and a completely confused mental state, which may lead to disgusting acts and violence.

The hope of recovery is small in the marked cases of dementia praecox. There is generally a tragic and steady decay of the mind. Physical factors are said
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by some alienists to be a predominant cause; but the new school of psychology attach considerable importance to mental, or psychogenetic, factors. It is even stated that mental analysis may be remedial in the early stages of the disorder. Very probably the defective action of the glandular system may be a primary cause of dementia praecox.

DELUSIONAL INSANITY

Delusions exist in several forms of psychosis. They are marked symptoms in paranoia, or delusional insanity. The disease may not develop until some years after the attainment of maturity. There is in many, if not all, instances clear evidence of a hereditary taint. Depression is usually noted as a first sign, and this is followed by delusions of persecution. The sufferer is beset with human or supernatural forces of evil. He is neglected and persecuted by his family, or there is a conspiracy of organized public bodies against him.

There are often delusions of a neurotic or sexual character, especially among women. Cases of extreme exaltation are seen in persons who imagine that they are kings or great prophets. This disorder is very intractable, and true recoveries are rare.
Apart from the mental symptoms, which are the chief index of madness, there are numerous physical stigmata among the insane. There is often a poor vitality, which cannot resist great strain. The skull is frequently malformed, and there are abnormalities of the palate and teeth. Often there is copious hair-growth, and in other instances a scanty growth, and a lack of colouring matter. In paralytics, the germs of syphilis have been found in the brain. Epileptic subjects also show cerebral defects.

There is a shrinkage of the brain in dementia. Peculiarities of gait are commonly noted. There is said to be a specific odour in the skin secretions of some lunatics. Changes of a degenerative kind may be seen in almost any of the internal organs.
CHAPTER V

CRIMINAL INSANITY
A LARGE number of the criminal population are insane or mentally deficient. Habitual crime is associated with an inferior intelligence, a lack of social feeling, an amoral attitude to life, or complete irresponsibility. A considerable proportion of habitual criminals are actually insane, but are not certified as lunatics, and many are punished unjustly. Many more are half-insane or mentally feeble types, with a very meagre appreciation of social behaviour.

There are more male than female criminals. Women of the degenerate class resort to prostitution as a substitute for larceny or burglary. It cannot be asserted positively that an inclination to prostitution is a true sign of mental degeneration. There are economic factors that induce many women to ply the trade of courtesan, and many professional prostitutes can only be described as normal and sane.

Undoubtedly moral imbecility sends a considerable number of girls on the streets. Lombroso stated
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moral irresponsibility as the source of prostitution. On the other hand, an Italian inquirer, Tammeo, holds that the truly insane are rarely prostitutes. The case is different with the feeble-minded. The moron who joins the demi-monde is often mentally deficient, though attractive in appearance.

Havelock Ellis relates the experiences of Commenge in Paris, who, writing of girls with a feeble moral sense, states: "They attach no importance to their virginity; they are deflowered under the strongest conditions, without the least thought or care about the act they are accomplishing. No sentiment, no calculation, pushes them into a man's arms. They let themselves go without reflection and without motive, in an almost animal manner, from indifference and without pleasure."

Commenge found "forty-five girls between the ages of twelve and seventeen who were deflowered by chance strangers whom they never met again." One girl of fourteen sold herself for a glass of beer\(^1\) and another for a ride on a roundabout. These irresponsibles are exposed to great risks of pregnancy, and of contracting venereal diseases; but they give no thought to the danger that they run.

Degeneracy of mind is notable in a high proportion of prostitutes. Physical abnormalities have also been noted as fairly common in America, Germany, and Italy. Dr. J. G. Kiernan and other investigators have found, among American prostitutes, a number

\(^1\) "Sex in Relation to Society," pp. 275, 276. 64
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of marked degenerates, and a proportion of insane women.

Hübner, in Germany, found that among sixty-four insane prostitutes in a Berlin asylum 54.45 were mentally defective when they adopted the trade.

Lack of moral responsibility and diminished responsibility are the source of many criminal acts, which are punished by law. Many sexual offences are committed by irresponsible, or semi-irresponsible, persons, notably hair-fetichists and exhibitionists. In cases of obsessional indecent exposure, epilepsy, feeble-mindedness and alcoholism are common causes. Confusional states may lead apparently sane individuals to commit acts against public decency.

THE CRIMINAL TYPE

Lombroso held the view that crime is the result of congenital mental deficiency, and that the born criminal, the habitual offender, has specific physical stigmata of degeneration. Not all delinquents can be classed as degenerates; a large number of occasional law-breakers are entirely sane and responsible. The habitual criminal, the recidivist, or "old lag," is generally an abnormal type with a strong bias to crime in one form or another.

The cost of the habitual criminal to the nation is enormous. There are many who spend most of their lives in gaol or penal servitude. When released, they are free to perpetuate their undesirable type. In
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Indiana "confirmed criminals and rapists" can be sterilized at the discretion of the authorities. In Washington the statute applies to habitual criminals, and to persons "adjudged guilty of carnal abuse of a female person under ten years of age."

Two, three, or more convictions is a cause for sterilization in some of the States. In California "any recidivist lawfully confined in a State prison" is liable to the asexualization act. If the inmates of Connecticut gaols are deemed unfit to procreate law-abiding children, they may be sterilized. For procreation, one offence in Iowa renders the operation compulsory. Criminals of the habitual class are liable to sterilization in Kansas, Oregon, South Dakota, and New Jersey.¹

"Mere conviction of crime is insufficient to justify society in taking this drastic means of protecting itself against the criminal," states the Harvard Law Review. "Asexualization can only be justified in the case of born criminals, and unfortunately in the present state of scientific knowledge it seems impossible to distinguish most born criminals from criminals by acquired habit."²

It is pointed out in America, in reply to opponents of sterilization, that the law hangs a murderer and

¹ A full account of the sterilization of the insane, feeble-minded and confirmed criminal will be found in "Eugenical Sterilization in the United States," by Harry H. Laughlin, D.Sc.
² Ibid.
imprisons some offenders for life. This is a necessary "interference with the liberty of the subject."

Sterilization of incorrigible criminals is not nearly so severe a penalty as lifelong imprisonment or hanging. It may, and often does, improve the health of the criminal.

Every provision is made against unjustifiable sterilization in the United States. The directors of prisons and hospitals appoint two skilled surgeons for each institution, and these, in conjunction with the physician or surgeon of the hospital or gaol, form a board, and have the power of deciding whether procreation is inadvisable in the case of certain detained persons. If the operations of vasectomy in male cases, and oophorectomy in the female, are considered essential, they are carried out with skill, safety, and in a humane manner.

**Typical Cases**

A man described as "a moral pervert" was charged with rape, and sentenced to imprisonment in the Oregon State Penitentiary. His age was sixty-four, and his occupation farmer and preacher. He was married and had two children, and had been divorced. The delinquent travelled the country preaching a gospel, which he called "The Crooked Way Made Straight." His own daughter by the first wife was sent from home, through "depraved acts" at an early age practised by the father. This man...
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adopted a little girl, and seduced her at the age of twelve. A sterilization order was made against the culprit, on the grounds that he was "a feeble-minded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminal, moral degenerate or sexual pervert, to wit: a Sexual Pervert—who is a person 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."

A girl, the daughter of a mentally defective father, in New Jersey, permitted intercourse with a negro, met casually. The mother was an epileptic, and numbers of her family were mentally deficient and alcoholic. This feeble-minded girl was hypersexual, and if released from an institution, was likely to bear degenerate offspring. The family history of this defective was examined thoroughly through several generations, and it was found to be bad on both sides.

There are a number of such girls in all the civilized communities, and the risk of reproducing their disastrous traits are appalling. The same may be said for the type of male offender in the first of these two cases.\(^1\) Is society justified in permitting such degenerate beings to propagate the species?

\(^1\) For full account see "Case and Family Histories," in "Eugenical Sterilization in the United States."
CHAPTER VI

REPRODUCTIVE PHYSIOLOGY
CHAPTER VI

REPRODUCTIVE PHYSIOLOGY

General physiology is one of the least studied subjects among the great mass of the population, and sexual physiology is almost entirely neglected, even among educated parents. For this reason it is necessary to describe briefly the rudiments of the immensely important science of reproduction in the human species, before proceeding to explain the various methods of asexualization, or sterilization, which are practised, or suggested as practicable.

The process of reproduction in mankind is intricate and wonderful. Very much remains to be discovered in relation to the physiology and psychology of sex; but many important discoveries have been made during the past fifty years, and knowledge is accumulating through the earnest labour of scientific inquirers in this great branch of biology. For the eugenical reformer, a knowledge of the physiology of reproduction is a first essential. Most of our ideas upon the sex relationship, social, moral, and legislative, have been derived from the scantiest possible
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knowledge of sexual physiology and psychology. Probably in no other subject of deep human interest is there so much misconception, ignorance, and error as in sexual affairs.

ASEXUAL AND SEXUAL REPRODUCTION

The oldest form of reproduction of a species is generally considered to be a budding or fission of an organism. There are worms in which this is the only method of increase. In several plants and lower animals there is periodic budding as a means of reproduction.

In the vegetable kingdom there are in most trees and plants two distinct sexes, each producing the requisite male and female germs of reproduction. As we ascend in the scale of animal evolution, the differences in the two sexes become more marked, and the process of generation more elaborate and complicated. In the higher mammalia, or breast-fed animals, psychic or emotional factors enter into courting, pairing, and the rearing of offspring. In mankind the sexual instinct is enormously supplemented by mental influences, imagination, and numerous stimuli.

Human beings are the product of the male sperm cell and the female ovum. The reproductive cells in male animals were first observed in 1677. Little of a scientific character was known by physiologists concerning reproduction before the discovery of the
method of conjugation of the male and female life germs. Semen is the fluid in which the male generative cells live and move. The ovum of the female cannot be fertilized without penetration by a spermatozoon from the male testicles.

Copulation, coitus, or sexual intercourse is the generative act of the mammals; and in the female the desire for conjugation and the capacity for breeding are dependent chiefly upon a periodic maturation of the ovum. The preparation for Nature's main purpose, Reproduction of the Species, begins at an early stage of foetal development in the human womb, and is continued until puberty, and later.

The sexual mode of propagation is a great step in advance of the asexual. In the human species it is the basis of the love of the sexes, and the source of the profoundest desires and emotions. It is also the determinant of aesthetic beauty and the attraction that play so large a part in human life. It may be said the higher the type, the higher and more diffused the sexuality. The dominance of the erotic instinct brings forth the highest virtues of humanity, and it may also be truly said, some of the gravest errors and tragedies.

**Sexual Periodicity**

At the pubertal period, the body of both sexes undergoes several changes of a highly important nature. The development is more notable in the
female sex, for the function of menstruation begins, and there are changes in the bodily chemistry, or metabolism. Woman is the dominant agent in reproduction; man is the fertiliser of the ovum that will become the embryo, and develop into the foetus and the infant.

The menstrual cycle in women is marked by stages. In the first stage there is swelling of the tissue of the uterus, followed by congestion and internal bleeding, arising from the surface epithelium. With the serous fluid discharged by the vagina, or external opening, there is water, albumen, and various salts. Menstruation occurs on the average once in twenty-eight days in the human female.

The process is a preparation for conception through the fertilization of a ripened ovum lodged in the Fallopian tubes or the womb. In the human being, as in all mammals, there is a condition known as oestrus, or the period of sexual desire, which begins in puberty. The common names for this state in animals are heat or rut.

In the male sex periodicity is less marked, but there is often periodic enhanced erotic excitement and desire.

Ovulation in the female is the formation of ovules or ova, in the ovaries on either side of the uterus; and in the human race, during the puerperal life, in normal instances, a fully developed ovum awaits impregnation once a month.

In the animals below man oestrus is well marked.
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Dogs are usually “in heat” once in six months. The males of many of the carnivora may be said to be constantly in a condition for pairing with the female. Some of the higher animals menstruate once a year, and a few only at longer intervals.

Ovulation

The ova of woman are present in an immature state at birth, and in large numbers. There are fewer at the age of puberty, and these are normally capable of impregnation if they come in contact with the male spermatozoon. The ovum is contained in the Graafian follicle, which comes near the surface of the ovary when mature. The follicles are finally ruptured, and form the corpus luteum, and the ovum is either fertilized by the male sperm, or left unimpregnated and subject to dissolution.

Ovulation in women is often accelerated by sexual intercourse. When the ovum is fully ripe, it is drawn up by the fimbriated ends of the Fallopian tube, and finds its way to the uterus.

The ovary has a massive influence upon the body and mind of women. The secretion from the interstitial glands is a highly important factor of health and has powerful psychic influence. It is probable that this secretion, or hormone, is the stimulus of heat, or sexual desire, in the females of all the mammalia.
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THE SEMINAL FLUID

The fluid that contains the male generative cells, or sperms, is stored in the testicles, two oval-shaped organs, enclosed in the scrotum, or bag. Normally, semen is first secreted at puberty, and its production is sometimes continued until senility. The vital germ, the spermatozoon, is microscopic, a single cell, with a head, a nucleus, and a long tail.

A vast number of spermatozoa are produced during adolescence and adult life. There may be 200,000,000 in a single ejaculation. The sperms are remarkably motile, and are urged along the minute tubes of the testicles by the whip-like tail. When discharged during copulation, the spermatozoa reach the uterus or Fallopian tubes of the female, and one sperm only pierces and fertilizes a mature ovum.

The semen of man is composed of secretions from the seminal vessels, the testicles, the prostate gland, and Littre's glands. Motility of the spermatozoon is aided by the fluid produced in the prostate.

THE MALE GENERATIVE ORGANS

The external organs of generation in the male are the testicles and the penis. The latter is the intermittent organ, which conveys the sperm to the ovum during the act of sexual intercourse. The penis
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serves as a duct for the expulsion of urine from the bladder, and is also an important part of the apparatus in coitus or copulation.

The penis is provided with erectile tissue, and when engorged with an extra supply of blood, stimulated by erotic erethism, or excitement, it can penetrate the female vagina. The organ is highly vascular, and supplied with numerous nerves and muscles. Ejaculation of the seminal fluid occurs during sexual intercourse, and the sperms are drawn up into the os uteri, or mouth of the womb, by peristaltic action.

The testicles, or testes, have already been briefly described. They contain the generative cells in the coils of the tubules, and also an important fluid from the cells of Leydig, or interstitial glands. The secretion from the interstitial cells produces the hormone, or stimulant, that causes desire for copulation in the mammals, and does not contain generative cells. Its secreting action is stimulated by the vasectomy operation, which will be described in other pages, and in authenticated cases of "rejuvenation," the effect is often marked.¹

There is an intimate association of the organs of generation with the endocrine, or ductless, glands in other parts of the human body. The thymus gland, which atrophies in normal cases in the pre-pubertal period, has a function in the development of the testicles. The thyroid is closely connected with the

¹ Cases are recorded in "Rejuvenation," by Dr. Norman Haire.
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sex organs. It is aroused to heightened action by sexual intercourse, and removal of the gland in women may cause atrophy of the internal generative organs.

The suprarenal capsule also influences the generative system to a certain extent. The pituitary gland affects body growth and sexual development. Castration results in certain changes in the functioning of the ductless glands.

THE FEMALE GENERATIVE ORGANS

The vagina is the sheath between the neck of the uterus and the external labia, or lips. The orifice has a double pair of labia, the majora and the minora, and the latter direct the flow of urine from the urethra. In the virgin female, the vagina is partly closed by the hymen, a thin membrane, which is usually ruptured during the first act of intercourse. Like the male organ of generation, the vagina is capable of tumescence, or thickening, under emotional influence, causing a flow of blood to the tissue. The clitoris is a small organ resembling the penis, and it is situated above the entrance to the vaginal passage. There are secreting mucous, lubricating and other glands in the vagina, which serve a purpose in coitus. The cervix, or neck of the uterus, opens into the vagina.

The ovaries are internal organs producing the ova, or female germs, connected with the womb by tubes. There is a secretion from the ovaries which has 78
powerful effects upon the bodily chemistry and the mind. Removal of the ovaries, spaying or castration in female animals, influences the metabolism consider-ably, as in the case of male castration. The interstitial secretion may be increased by severing the tube that conveys the ova to the uterus. For therapeutic and hygienic reasons, this operation is sometimes performed; and it is the chief of the customary means of sterilization in America.

Ovarian extract has been used fairly extensively in the treatment of female diseases, and it is claimed that the results are often remarkable. In women, as in men, there is a functional relationship between the endocrine organs and the generative system. The thyroid gland swells at the menstrual period, and becomes larger at puberty. The secretion from the pituitary body plays a part in the production of milk from the mammary glands. In extract, from the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland, used in midwifery cases and in experiments on animals, it has been proved to stimulate the generative system.

**Impregnation and Gestation**

Insemination, the first stage of impregnation of the ovum of woman by the male spermatozoon, occurs after copulation, when an active sperm cell comes into contact with a ripened ovum. The spermatozoa may remain vital for some days. Cases have been
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recorded in which sperms remained in the vagina for a week and over three weeks.

In the human species there is a constant production of spermatozoa in healthy males from the age of puberty, and a fertile man can procreate at any time. Conception is the result of the fertilization of the ovum, and when it occurs, menstruation in the woman usually ceases entirely until after the birth of the infant.

The blood of the mother produces through the placenta the nutriment for the embryo in the uterus. The embryo is protected by the amniotic fluid, and develops into the foetus during the period of gestation. Various metabolic changes occur in the pregnant woman.

The act of giving birth, delivery or parturition, is accompanied by pain. The infant is expelled by powerful contractions of the uterus and the abdominal muscles. The child-bearing period in a woman’s life is about thirty years.
CHAPTER VII

FATEFUL HEREDITY
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FATEFUL HEREDITY

It has been said that "no man can escape the tyranny of his organization." We all come into life with good and bad traits inherited from our ancestors and progenitors, and our inheritance can merely be modified, and not changed entirely. There has been a long controversy on the corrective effect of Nurture upon Nature, and it has been claimed that environment, education, and various social and ethical or religious influences can alter character. Only in a limited degree can training influence a man's inherent traits. The tendencies in the germ-plasm remain to the end.

As heredity is the main factor in idiocy, imbecility, feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, and various forms of insanity, the study of genetics is essential in the training of the eugenical reformer. In the United States, in 1922, there were one hundred and fifty trained investigators of the pedigree facts of numerous families.

"Their business consists in starting with a given individual, called the propositus; then, after securing a thorough case-history of this particular individual, and securing records of medical examination,
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psychaistrical and anthropological tests, the worker goes to the home territory of the propositus. There, from first-hand evidence, the family connections of the individual are established, and then, in order to present the family relations to the analyst, clearly and conveniently, a family tree is plotted in pedigree or genealogical fashion.

"The field-worker next proceeds to secure case-histories and biographical records of the various members of the family tree, with particular emphasis upon those persons closest in blood and kin to the propositus, and upon those traits which are being diagnosed genetically in the propositus." ¹

The accumulation of case-histories of the insane, the mentally defective and the habitually criminal, is of the highest value to the sociologist, eugenist, and legislator. If a country wishes to rear socially valuable individuals, as much attention to the facts of genetics is at least as necessary as the care exercised in the breeding of superior livestock. Unfortunately, no such investigation has been State-supported in Great Britain until recently.

The alarm now shown by an increasing number of responsible citizens in the United Kingdom lest the unfit may soon vastly outnumber the fit, is almost of the nature of panic. We find, in all parts of England, Wales, and Scotland, an official demand for practical and immediate measures for dealing with one of the gravest of our national problems.

FATEFUL HEREDITY

GOOD HUMAN STOCK

It is well known that some families "breed true" and produce useful members of the community, while in other families the record is bad. The family name may be a synonym for ineffectiveness, weak-mindedness, alcoholism, or criminality. The fatal tendency to recessive traits in a family line has been closely studied. There are children of whom it may be said that they are doomed to act anti-socially as adults, or to develop signs of amentia or insanity. A dominant character trait is generally shown by a fairly large number of the members of a given family. Mutations or changes in the germ-plasm, often baffle the genetic inquirer. Nevertheless, the signs of degeneration are recognizable by the expert investigator before the actual appearance of amentia subjects or criminal offenders in a human stock. Desirable and undesirable hereditary qualities are mixed in most men and women, and it is hardly possible to eliminate the bad and preserve only the good. We can only say that, when the bad tendencies preponderate largely over the good, it is undesirable to breed from a specific individual.

With increasing knowledge of hereditary influences, it is unlikely that the nations of the West will endure much longer the degenerative practice of utterly irresponsible human breeding. "Genetic knowledge," writes Bateson, "must certainly lead to new conceptions of justice, and it is by no means
impossible that, in the light of such knowledge, public opinion will welcome measures likely to do more for the extinction of the criminal and the degenerate than has been accomplished by ages of penal enactment.''

In the *Alienist and Neurologist*, 1908, a writer states:

"There are circumstances under which the propagation of a human life may be as gravely criminal as the taking of a life already begun."

Family histories of many criminals, lunatics, and of offenders judged as sane, would show degeneracy in the ancestors, near or remote. The question of responsibility in mental disease is very difficult. Unquestionably, a considerable number of habitual offenders, costing the public an immense annual expenditure for penal detention, should be under perpetual restraint, and prevented from procreating their types.

As a matter of fact, the law-abiding citizen is penalized for the support of his amoral, vicious, or criminal neighbour. Ever-increasing taxation is the inevitable outcome of our disastrous disregard of the inexorable principle of heredity. It is only by blind chance that the physically sound and the mentally capable are produced in the civilized states of the West. We continue to breed as the hairy, semi-human primitives bred in the earliest stage of man's evolution; and we reap the terrible result in disease of mind and body, crime, and suffering.

2 Article on "Restricted Procreation," C. H. Hughes.
CHAPTER VIII

VOLUNTARY AND FORCIBLE STERILIZATION
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VOLUNTARY AND FORCIBLE STERILIZATION

A very considerable number of entirely responsible persons of either sex have been voluntarily sterilized during the past few years. The vasectomy operation, as performed upon individuals suffering from premature ageing, chronic fatigue symptoms, inefficiency in work, and other disabilities, has been highly successful in a number of recorded cases.

The effect of severing the vas deferens in men, and the ovarian tube in women, is in most instances mentally and physically beneficial. It is only beginning to be recognized that the chemistry of the body (metabolism) is, in both sexes, influenced enormously by the secretions from the glands of the internal generative organs. The ancient saying: “The seed is the life” is true, in the sense that the race cannot continue without the merging of the male germ with the female ovum. But the gonads, or germ-plasm, have their single and specific purpose. They either perish after secretion or are employed in the reproductive process. They are not the purely somatic secretions, and they can be expelled from the body of both sexes.
The fluid from the interstitial glands of the testicles is not a fertilizing agent, but is the hormone that incites to pairing in the human species, and is absolutely requisite for developing the secondary sex characters and the sound health of the whole system.

In 1899, "Dr. C. H. Sharp, surgeon of the Reformatory at Jeffersonville, Indiana, appears to have been the first to use vasectomy eugenically on any scale." 1

The secretion from the interstitial tubules has its influences upon the other ductless, or endocrine, glands of the body of mammals. Hence entire removal of the testes causes arrested development in the thyroid and increase in the pituitary. Eunuchs tend to become fat, and if castrated before puberty there is interference with the pituitary secretion, which is most probably the cause of elongation of the bones of the limbs.

There is quite sufficient evidence to prove that the interstitial glands secrete a fluid that plays a very important part in metabolism. Ligature of the vas deferens, though rendering the subject sterile, does not interfere with the production of the testicular hormone; on the contrary, there is proof that the secretion is heightened, with marked signs of improvement of health, a reaccess of vigour, and frequently a renewal of sexual potency.

This rejuvenating influence is well illustrated when a whole testicle, or part, is transplanted into the

1 "Eugenical Sterilization in U.S.A.,” p. 410.
body of a previously castrated male animal. Numerous highly interesting cases are given in volumes on the endocrine organs. When the production of semen is inhibited by the operation of vasectomy, there is an increased activity of the interstitial cells. It is this fact that induces many persons in the Western nations to undergo a simple treatment that will bring about a restoration of mental and bodily capacity, though it involves a loss of generative power. The operation abolishes the production of germ cells.

Voluntary sterilization in sane women is less frequent than in men. The removal of the ovaries has not as marked an effect as castration in men. The operation of spaying, or oöphorectomy, in women, at an early age, causes a reduction in the size of the uterus, and a cessation of the menstrual function. Castrated women may develop masculine physical signs, and are inclined to corpulence.

The special gland of the ovaries, affecting secondary sex characters and metabolism, certainly appears to be stimulated to increased secretion by salpingectomy, or the excision of a small part of both oviducts or Fallopian tubes. The testimony of surgeons as to the benefits to health that follow this operation in women seems to point to permanent and positive results in some cases.¹

The influence of complete removal of the ovaries upon the sex appetite may be to diminish or to

¹ "Rejuvenation," Dr. Norman Haire.
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enhance desire and gratification. Upon this question there is much evidence that seems conflicting. Kisch notes this difference of view among inquirers, in "The Sexual Life of Women." Lawson Tait and other gynecologists state that removal of part or even the whole of the internal organs of generation in women does not cause a loss of desire or satisfaction in sexual intercourse.

VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION OF AMENTS

A proportion of high-grade feeble-minded persons are sufficiently intelligent to consent to the operation of vasectomy. They are carefully enlightened concerning the nature of the operation, its safety, and its potentiality for improving the state of health. In many instances, relatives of mental defectives, in America, advise the treatment in the interest of the afflicted person.

An elderly man convicted of offences against little girls in Chicago, was offered the choice of submitting to sterilization or being sent to prison. Judge Marcus Kavanaugh, who heard the case, said to the delinquent: "If you will submit to an operation, with the choice of the best surgeons, by next Saturday, I will set aside your sentence. I cannot compel you to submit, and you will have a week to think the matter over. If you decide to do this it will mean that you do not have to begin your sentence of from one to twenty years in the penitentiary."
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The prisoner consented to be sterilized. In commenting on the case, the judge said: "I believe all morons, the criminal insane, and habitual criminals, both men and women, should be so treated." A year after the operation, the convicted man had changed for the better. Had he been imprisoned and released, there is the strong probability that he would have repeated his misconduct.

In England voluntary sterilization of criminal aments has been offered in at least one case as an alternative to imprisonment. A mentally defective youth was given the option by a magistrate, but his mother refused consent. There is little doubt that if the harmless, and even beneficial, results of vasectomy were clearly understood, a number of unfit men and women would undergo the operation voluntarily. It is essential that the public should understand that sterilization does not mean the same thing as castration, i.e., entire removal of testicles or ovaries, but the severing of a duct, and that the operation does not interfere with capacity for sexual intercourse.

COMPULSORY STERILIZATION

There are numerous cases of amentia, insanity, and habitual criminality, in which the only possible protection of society and posterity is by enforced sterilization. Some of the legal advocates of asexualization in the United States have stated that the major operation of castration, or even complete
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removal of the external sex organs, should be the penalty for rape and outrages on children.

The majority of eugenical reformers are in favour of the less drastic operation of vasectomy in the case of the hopelessly feeble-minded. Dr. R. Reid Rentoul, one of the careful investigators of eugenical problems in England, points out that no surgeon is empowered by law to perform any surgical operation upon any person. Sir J. F. Stephen stated that: "Every person has the right to consent to a surgical operation upon himself, or upon his child; that if the person is incapable of giving consent to a surgical operation, it is not a crime to operate without consent." ¹

In the rejuvenation operation, as performed frequently by surgeons at the request of sane patients, there is no question of illegality. It has been suggested that no person should perform the sterilization operation for any reason without having gained the consent of the Lunacy Commissioners. No surgeon should operate unless appointed by the Commissioners, and any breach of this rule should be a punishable offence.

For the protection of future generations and the community of to-day, forcible sterilization is as fully justifiable as the execution of murderers, the imprisonment of criminal offenders, the detention of the insane, or any necessary method of protecting citizens of the State, approved by public opinion.

¹ "Race Culture or Race Suicide," 1906.

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FORCIBLE STERILIZATION

The first Statute of Washington, in 1909, declared that compulsory sterilization was indicated in the case of inveterate criminals and persons guilty of carnal abuse of female persons under ten years of age, or of rape. The operation permitted was "an operation for the prevention of procreation." In the second Statute, the sterilization treatment was recommended and approved for the feeble-minded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates and sexual perverts, in institutions, showing hereditary degeneracy.

The motive of the State for the enactment was "primarily eugenic and secondarily for the personal benefit of the inmate." The decision as to the kind of operation is in the discretion of the Institutional Board of Health, "to be performed with due regard for the physical condition of the inmate, and in a safe and humane manner."
CHAPTER IX

OBJECTIONS TO STERILIZATION
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OBJECTIONS TO STERILIZATION

Most of the opponents of legal sterilization of the unfit assert that the measure is a flagrant interference with the liberty of the subject. To what extent is "liberty" justifiable for the community and the individual? This question has perplexed rulers and law-makers for many centuries. No state has permitted a freedom that militates against the common welfare. Even in the countries boasting of liberty, there are enactments that, in the opinion of many citizens, curtail reasonable freedom of action, and lead to evil.

In a certain degree, a government is compelled to frame laws that are a menace to sane liberty in speech and conduct. There is everywhere a limit to free speech, and often an attempt to suppress free thought is imposed by legislation. In America a person may not drink spirituous liquors under a penalty. He is practically prohibited from investigating important social and hygienic questions, through the action of the law that makes the sale of a work on sex-psychology or birth control an indictable offence.
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In England recently we have experienced a typical interference with public liberty, in the case of those government officials who are permitted to decide what books should be read by their compatriots. The ancient religious association of knowledge with sin is manifest in all the Western civilizations. And many ardent advocates of sternly suppressive measures for combating crime, immorality, obscenity, and alcoholic intemperance are hostile to a method of attacking the evils at their source.

THE HUMANITARIAN OBJECTION

Fellow-feeling, sympathy and pity are excellent and indispensable social virtues, and it is on the grounds of sympathy with the weak that some persons denounce the eugenical measure for diminishing amentia, insanity, and habitual criminality. They would refrain from depriving an imbecile or a highly dangerous criminal of the power of procreation on the plea of humanity. It is not "humane," they argue, to "mutilate" a human being, even though his or her offences, and lack of moral responsibility, are proved clearly to be the result of a hereditary taint, which can be handed on from generation to generation.

Better that the ament should be granted freedom of action in the sex relationship than that he should be made a victim of an arbitrary act, and lose his liberty as a member of a free community. Such, in effect, is the contention of those vehement critics of sterilization.
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tion who fail to recognize that permitting the unfit to increase and multiply is more cruel and destructive of social liberty than the enforcement of a surgical operation on a comparatively small number of degenerates.

Sympathy is at the basis of eugenical sterilization. The eugenist realizes that the prevention of an appalling increase of the feeble-minded and the hereditary criminal is only possible by the means that he proposes. Is it not far more humane to debar the unfit man or woman from procreating degenerates, born to a heritage of suffering and disability, than to permit him or her to enjoy a fatal " liberty."

In a considerable number of instances mental defectives and criminals consent willingly to sterilization. They experience no dread of the operation when it is explained to them. That many of the subjects who have undergone the operation are in better health afterwards is unquestionable. Responsible valetudinarians pay considerable fees for a precisely similar operation, with the expectation of a renewal of vitality.

Vasectomy, as we have seen, does not impair the general health, but tends to improve it. It does not destroy the emotional attitude to the opposite sex, nor preclude sexual relations. The only way in which the operation affects liberty is that the subject cannot injure society by producing offspring doomed to misery, and capable of passing on their degeneracy in more severe forms.
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IS SEGREGATION A REMEDY?

Opponents of sterilizing methods suggest that complete segregation of the unfit is more humane than an operation, and that it would prevent the increase of amentia and crime by the separation of the sexes in colonies or institutions. An ament might be certified as irresponsible in childhood, and segregated for the whole of life, with only the minimum of risk of the production of illegitimate offspring. In such cases the cost to the State would be enormous. Another proposed alternative is confinement in a custodial institution during the whole of the reproductive period in man and woman. This involves "the loss of liberty" which is so deplored by those who would allow freedom full rein.

There are two motives in segregation: the protection of the community, and the protection of the individual. Segregation and sterilization are not punishments. They are human measures in the interest of those afflicted by congenital mental incapacity, of their relatives, the State, posterity and the race.

It would be impossible to segregate effectively the vast multitude of aments and constant criminals in the civilized nations. Even under the closest supervision there must always be a very large number of the socially inadequate to propagate their kind. The cases of latent insanity are numerous, the actually 102
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insane are often at liberty, and the mentally deficient of the higher grade who are not certified, abound everywhere in the Western world. These are actual and potential parents of ill-fated children.

Sterilization is not a complete substitution for segregation because a very considerable number of aments are not fit to be at large. The morons who are fairly capable of taking care of themselves and doing some kind of work can, in some instances, be permitted freedom. But they must not be able to procreate.

"Sterilization and segregation are both working for social amelioration," states Dr. H. H. Laughlin's careful survey of the whole question. "Segregation takes the immediate problem, and should have unbounded support. Sterilization is a long-term investment and looks towards reducing the necessity in future generations of custodial care and treatment."

According to the court decisions in America, degenerates in or out of custodial institutions are subject to sterilization. It would be folly to allow mental defectives of most grades the full liberty of responsible persons. On the other hand, tolerably capable aments could, if sterilized, obtain occupation which would at least partly support them. Neither segregation nor sterilization alone is at present sufficient for the elimination of mental deficiency. There is, however, reason to believe that the evil may be banished after a few years of sterilization.
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THE MORAL OBJECTION

It has been objected that the sterilization operation, though it deprives mental defectives from the power of procreation, does not inhibit the exercise of the sexual instinct, and is therefore likely to cause increased sexual irregularity in persons of congenital libidinous propensity. Whether we sterilize the ament or not, he or she is almost certain to gratify sex desire, either in marriage or illicitly. Deprivation of the ability to reproduce would prevent the enormous number of illegitimate births among mental defectives, and is, in fact, the only safeguard against this menace to public well-being.

It cannot be proved that vasectomy in men, and the severing of the ovarian tube in women, would result in an increase of sexual promiscuity. Even if sexual irregularity results, the harm as a consequence to the State and to the race is not nearly so perilous as the uncontrolled reproduction of a host of the unfit, the greater number of whom would become charges upon the public purse, and a source of disease, crime, and pauperism.

The moral objection can scarcely be urged by those who reflect seriously upon the evils resulting from the present immoral and demoralizing laxity of authority, which allows two irresponsible half-wits or semi-insane persons to produce as many children as they choose. Aments are sufficiently intelligent
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to apprehend that the State will not allow their illegitimate and degenerate offspring to starve.

It may even be said that, under a system which fails to prevent the reproduction of diseased illegitimate children, illicit intercourse is facilitated.
CHAPTER X

BIRTH CONTROL AS A REMEDY