Department of Public Health and Charities
OF PHILADELPHIA

The Degenerate Children of Feeble-Minded Women

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BULLETINS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHARITIES ON ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

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THE DEGENERATE CHILDREN OF FEEBLE-MINDED WOMEN

The conditions shown here are not unique, nor are they exaggerated. The Superintendent of any large charitable agency will attest to their truth. The purpose of this bulletin is to bring to the attention of legislators and an intelligent public, facts which are passed over by social workers as every-day experiences, and yet which are so appalling that they seldom find their way into public print.

The transmission of degenerate offspring by feeble-minded parents, which is the principal subject of this paper, is dealt with from the standpoint of the feeble-minded woman rather than the feeble-minded man. The reason for this is that the evidence of unchastity is with the mother rather than the father, and that more children are born to feeble-minded women than are born to feeble-minded men. The feeble-minded man is a repulsive person to a normal woman, but the unfortunate feeble-minded woman does not escape from wicked men who trust to her weak will power and weak memory to escape from the consequences of their acts.

The following record of cases, each one of which was investigated by the Children's Bureau of Philadelphia, shows conclusively:

**Practically all poor feeble-minded women at large become the mothers of illegitimate children soon after reaching the age of puberty.**

*Feeble-minded women produce many children. In this series twenty feeble-minded women produced sixty children.*

*A helpless feeble-minded woman is the prey of not one man but many men. In this series twenty women bore sixty children by thirty-eight fathers.*

*Most of the children of feeble-minded women are either illegitimate or feeble-minded or both.*

**The histories of these feeble-minded women and their feeble-minded children are practically the same. Their unfortunate birth, helplessness, pauperism and ruin is part of a continuous series whereby the community is constantly supplied with the elements of degeneracy.**
Twenty-four Feeble-minded Girls and Women over sixteen years of age were handled by the Children's Bureau of Philadelphia in the years 1908-0-10. They are described in the following list:

**Group 1.**—Single Feeble-Minded Women with Feeble-Minded Children.

**Group 2.**—Single Feeble-Minded Women with Children not known to be Feeble-Minded.

**Group 3.**—Single Feeble-Minded Women with no Children.

**Group 4.**—Married Feeble-Minded Women with Feeble-Minded Children.

**Group 5.**—Married Feeble-Minded Women with Children not known to be Feeble-Minded.

**Group 6.**—Married Feeble-Minded Women with no Children.

**Group 1.**—Single Feeble-Minded Women with Feeble-Minded Children—3.

1. Annie F., now placed at service with child by the Children's Aid Society, about 38 years old, unmarried, German. Is plainly feeble-minded. Has borne one child. Mary, 5 years old, with mother, appears subnormal. The reputed father is George A., a married farmer. He employed Annie, and, according to her story, assaulted her. He denies it.

2. Mary D., placed at service with child by the Children's Aid Society, 33 years old, unmarried, American, feeble-minded (examined). Is known to have borne one child. Mildred, 7 years old, with the mother, feeble-minded (examined). Father unknown.

3. Mary B., Christian Street, with her sister. She is 18 years old, unmarried, American. Both parents are alcoholic, immoral and shiftless. Brother sent to prison for assaulting a little girl. Morally is very deficient. Has tried to commit suicide. Appears subnormal (no examination). Known to have borne one child, and is again pregnant, probably by the same man. Raymond, 2 years old, taken by the Society to Protect Children from Cruelty, appears subnormal. The father is William B., 28 years old, brother-in-law to Mary, an electrical engineer. Is now in Moyamensing Prison for the crime, as Mary is still a minor.

**Group 2.**—Single Feeble-Minded Women with Children not known to be Feeble-Minded—9.

4. Rose K., present address unknown, 26 years old, unmarried,
with baby, German-American, has an immoral, alcoholic father. Partially paralyzed from infancy. Is clearly subnormal. Has borne two children.

Marian, 6 years old, is now with the mother's relatives. She appears normal. The child's father is unknown.

Allen, 2½ years old, is with the mother. Is too young to determine mentality. The father of this child is an insurance agent, a married man.

5. Mary F., present address unknown, 27 years old, American. Her mother and father are divorced. She is evidently feeble-minded. Is known to have borne one child, and to have had one miscarriage.

Marie, 3 years old, is with the mother, seems normal.

6. Minnie S., placed at service with child by the Children's Aid Society, 19 years old, unmarried, American. Is clearly subnormal. Is known to have borne one child.

Henry, 6 months, is with the mother. Is too young to determine his mentality. The father is a farmer. No further information.


Pearl, 1½ years, is with the mother. Her mentality is unknown. The father is also unknown.

8. Eva F., placed at service with child by the Children's Aid Society, 21 years old, unmarried, American. Suffered several criminal assaults in childhood; sexually perverted, bordering on feeble-mind (examined). Known to have borne one child.

Arthur, 1½ years old, with mother. Too young to determine mentality. Father is unknown. May have been one of many.

9. Lavinia S., Ludlow Street (5, 10, '09), 35 years old, unmarried, colored, went to service at 13 years of age. Is a borderline case mentally, a sexual pervert. Has borne eight children, some still-born, some with operations, all by different fathers, only two living.

Bertha, 12 years, with mother's sister, mentality unknown.

Lavinia, 3 years, with mother. Too young to determine mentality. Father unknown.

10. Maggie B., Germantown Almshouse, 24 years old, unmarried, immoral, herself illegitimate. Her mother and grandmother are both alcoholics and immoral. Maggie is feeble-minded (examined). Known to have borne two children by different fathers.
Maggie, born 1907, dead. Father unknown. May have been any one of several men.

James, 2½ years, with mother. Mentality can not yet be determined. Father is John C., 70 years old, married, a cigar-store keeper.

11. Tillie S., placed at service with baby by the Children's Aid Society, 32 years old, unmarried, American, inmate of almshouse at age of 10, was placed out from there repeatedly. Tillie is both subnormal and sexually perverted. She has borne four children by four fathers, one colored. Was seduced at the age of 13.

Alice, 15 years, with relatives, mentality unknown. Father unknown. Said to be bright.

Esther, 10 years, in an institution, mentality unknown. Father unknown.

Charles, dead. Father unknown.

Alberta, 1 year, colored, with mother. Too young to determine mentality. Father is colored; said to be in prison for murder of wife (?)

12. Bertha G., placed at service with child by the Children's Aid Society, 21 years old, unmarried, American, immoral. Had an operation for a tumor in forehead at the age of 9, resulting in a depression in skull. Is exceedingly subnormal. Is known to have borne one child. This child she drugs to lessen the amount of care required.

Margaret, 18 months, is with her mother. She is too young to determine mentality. Father unknown.

Group 3.—Single Feeble-Minded Women with no Children—4.

13. Katherine B., now at service at Eddington with Mrs. V., unmarried, Scotch, 17 years old, twin sister a suicide. Has thirteen brothers and sisters living. Katherine is undersized, a hunchback, with tubercular tendencies. She is subject to fits of mania. Is a high-grade imbecile (examined).

14. Mazie M., Shackamaxon Street (1909), 19 years old, unmarried, American. Father is alcoholic, shiftless and dishonest. Mother is suspected of drug habit. Other members of the family are immoral. Mazie has malformed skull and curvature of the spine, and is a case of low-grade feeble-mind (examined). No place open to her but the home of uncle, which is of questionable repute.

15. Mamie C., N. Conestoga Street, about 25 years old, unmarried, a low-grade imbecile. No history known.

16. Clara E., N. Twelfth Street, 17 years old, unmarried, Ger-
man-American. Clara is a low-grade imbecile, speech is indistinct. She required constant watching. Is on the waiting list for the Spring City Institution.

**Group 4. — Married Feeble-Minded Women with Feeble-Minded Children—3.**

17. Louisa S., at service with the baby, 31 years, married, German-American, immoral. Is high or middle-grade imbecile (examined). Has borne five children, three are dead, having died in infancy, four illegitimate. Little information is known about the fathers, but they are probably normal. Is now pregnant again.

Katie, 8 years, legitimate, care of the Society to Protect Children from Cruelty, is feeble-minded. Father, Jacob, 65 years, is a ragan.

Louisa, 2 years, one of two twins, illegitimate, with the mother. Father unknown.

18. Josephine J., present address unknown, last at Wayfarers' Lodge, 22 years, married (forced), colored, placed in an institution when an infant. Was an inmate of B. Almshouse at the time of an illegitimate pregnancy. The marriage which resulted was urged by the authorities. She is dishonest, secretive and subnormal mentally. Has borne five children, four of them died in infancy. All were eight-months babies, the first one illegitimate.

John, 2½ years, with the mother, does not walk or talk, and is plainly defective. The father is John J., 33 years, third marriage. Is in House of Correction. Low mentality.

19. Anna R., Emily Street, 40 years old, married, American. Mother and three brothers subnormal. This woman is of a violent, undisciplined temper, mentality bordering on feeble-mind. She is known to have borne six children by two husbands. All the children are defective.

Jennie H., 18 years, with mother's sister. Has been in House of Refuge for immorality. No information about father.

Margaret R., 16 years, with parents, is an epileptic.

Horace, 14 years, backward and incorrigible, is in a charitable institution.

Hobson, 11 years, Spring City Institution for Feeble-Minded, low-grade imbecile.

Harry, 7 years, in a charitable institution, is very backward, deformed. Evidence of congenital syphilis.

George, 4 years, with parents, does not yet talk. Every evidence of feeble-mind (examined).

Father of five youngest children Frederick R., extremely low
mentality, sodden with vice, shiftless, and of a degraded family.

Group 5. — Married Feeble-Minded Women with Children not known to be Feeble-Minded—5.

20. Lavinia G., present address unknown, probably on the street, 23 years old, married, American. immoral, erratic. Is clearly feeble-minded. Known to have borne three children. John, 4 years, in a charitable institution. Seems normal. Elizabeth; 2 years, in a charitable institution. George, 10 months, in a charitable institution. Father, John G., waiter, said to be dissipated.

21. Margaret C., Allen Lane, 34 years, married, American. Has an impediment in speech. Apparently a high-grade imbecile. Has borne two children, one dead in infancy. George, 3 years, with mother, too young to determine mentality. Father, Henry C., a plumber, died of tuberculosis.

22. Pauline S., present address unknown, said to be street walking, 36 years old, married, German, alcoholic, is reported to be immoral and to have a venereal disease. Appears subnormal. Has borne five children, three of which died in infancy, and has had two miscarriages. Henry, 8 years, committed to the Society to Protect Children from Cruelty, now in a charitable institution, dwarfish, anaemic, guilty of masturbation, dishonest, a chronic runaway. Rosa, 2 years, in a charitable institution. Too young to determine mentality. Father, Roberts, is 67 years old. He is a marble cleaner. Is brutal, indecent and of weak mentality.

23. Minnie N., Newkirk Street (in 1909), with brother, 38 years old, married (husband dead), American, is deaf, an alcoholic, immoral, dependent, feeble-minded (examined). Known to have borne one child, illegitimate, whose whereabouts are unknown. Rosie, 18 month, legitimate, with mother. Too young to determine mentality. Father, Charles N. K., 40 years, when living was a driver for a brewery. Was normal.

24. Mary N., S. Twenty-Fourth Street (brother's home), 36 years, married, Irish. She is unable to hold a place at service. Is a high-grade feeble-mind (examined). Has borne five children, all now being dead, some having died at birth. Father, James N., 38 years, laborer, of brutal character and a drunkard.
Group 6.—Married Feeble-Minded Women with no Children—0.

A study of this record shows:

1. Of the twenty-four feeble-minded girls and women here reported twenty had borne children. Of the four who had remained chaste three were still young girls.

2. These twenty feeble-minded women bore fifty-six children (plus three miscarriages and one pregnancy).

3. Of the twenty-four cases twelve were single women, who bore illegitimate children. Two of the cases classed as married had previously borne illegitimate children. Total, fourteen.

4. Of the twenty-four cases three were single girls and women who bore illegitimate children who were also feeble-minded.

5. Of the twenty feeble-minded women who bore children only eight were married. Of these one was married in haste by order of an almshouse superintendent, and two bore illegitimate children before their marriage. More correctly, therefore, there were only five.

6. Six of the twenty feeble-minded mothers (both single and married) bore feeble-minded children. These are minimum figures, since most of the children passed as normal are still infants. In addition there were twenty-one children who died, three miscarriages and one pregnancy. Some of these would doubtless have added to the number of feeble-minded children.

The following cases in detail are given from the preceding list:

Annie R., Emily Street, American, mother and three brothers being distinctly subnormal, herself mentally deficient, violent, undisciplined and lacking in every qualification for motherhood, the mother of six living children, all defective.

She has been married twice. Of the first husband nothing is known. The one living child of this marriage, a girl of eighteen, has been in the House of Refuge for immorality. She is now living with her mother’s sister, a shiftless, irresponsible person.

The second husband is one of the most degraded, of a low and vicious family, his mother and sister being of the lowest type, harboring different men in a wretched house on Morris Street near Front. The five children of this union are a girl of sixteen, epileptic, never got beyond the first grade in school, with her mother; expects to marry soon; a boy of fourteen, the most normal of the children, but extremely backward and incorrigible placed in a charitable institution; a boy of eleven, low-grade imbecile, bladder and lungs diseased, Spring City Institution for
the Feeble-Minded at Spring City; a boy of seven, defective hip and ankle bones, evidences of congenital syphilis, extremely backward, mentality questioned, in a charitable institution; George, four years, does not yet talk except a few words; every evidence of feeble mind, staying with the mother. All these children are subject to enuresis and are weak physically.

*Lettie H., 12 years, American, white, both parents alcoholic. Was taken from parents by the Society to Protect Children from Cruelty and placed in the care of the Children's Aid Society. Is very much in need of institutional care, which it is not possible for the Society to give in a private family home. An effort was made to have her placed in the institution at Spring City, but word was received that nothing could be done for at least eighteen months, possibly longer, because of lack of accommodation for girls.

*Nellie B., 12 years, American, white, very difficult to control. Parents very ignorant, father being of less than average intelligence. His half-sister is exceedingly immoral, said to be a pervert. Case came to Bureau through an application for care for Nellie at Spring City. Application was made to this institution, but admission was refused, there being no accommodations for females. The child is in care of relatives, but she needs constant watching. Takes her clothing off in public, and is looked upon as a source of fun by the street gangs around her home. Proper supervision she cannot get in her own home, and though she is now in public shool her teachers say that they are unable to do anything with her, the urgent need being for institutional care.

Maggie B., 24 years, American, white, subnormal. Herself an illegitimate child and the mother of two illegitimate children by different fathers. Maggie, born 1907, dead. James, 2½ years.

Maggie's mother and grandmother, both alcoholic and immoral. When about twenty Maggie took a place at service with Mrs. L., of Germantown. She was found to be pregnant. Gave birth to a child (Maggie) at the Philadelphia Lying-in Charity, which was placed by Mrs. L. in St. Vincent's Home, and was never heard from again. Maggie accused several men of being the father of this child. She remained in Mrs. L. service, and 3, 25, '08, gave birth to another child (James) in the Rosine Home. Its father was John, seventy years old, the keeper of a cigar store which Maggie frequented.

Maggie then secured places at service through the Children's Aid Society with her child. She did not give satisfaction, so was examined and found to be subnormal. She has generally been regarded by her friends and all who have dealt with her as weak,
feeble-minded and a dangerous character on account of her immoral propensities.

Unsuccessful efforts were made to have her received at the Philadelphia General Hospital and later at the State Hospital at Norristown for observation. April 21, '09, Maggie was received with her child at the Germantown Almshouse.

*Angelina M., Italian, 14 years, feeble-minded epileptic. This is the second child in family of 4 children.

Parents living, markedly illiterate, and suffering from a poor standard of living. Angelina for years has been a source of distress and trouble to her parents and the near-by neighbors. Has constant seizures, with no one to protect her. Application was made to the Bureau in May, 1910, for care. Bureau Visitor entered the house to find Angelina just coming out of an epileptic seizure, and she was almost entirely nude. Was stretched out on the floor with a dirty blackened pan, containing two fried eggs, which she had tried to eat before being taken sick. In the house, and trying to help her, were four Italian men. This condition of nudeness was a source of constant complaint from the neighbors. It was considered a source of great amusement to the boys and young men in the neighborhood. Dr. S., of the Pennsylvania Epileptic Hospital and Colony Farm, at Oakbourne, took Angelina for temporary care because of the grossly low condition of her home. He can no longer keep her, however, as she is a danger to the other children and is suffering from the lack of equipment at Oakbourne for the care of a defective child. She was at one time in the Philadelphia Hospital, but her parents removed her against the wishes of the authorities. No provision seems possible in the absence of an institution in Philadelphia. The dangers to which she is exposed are too revolting to discuss.

Minnie S. N., 39 years, German, Protestant, deaf, feeble-minded, alcoholic; physically strong, one child, girl, illegitimate. 18 months.

Minnie's mother and other members of her family were feeble-minded. She went to school until fourteen, when she left after losing her hearing. Has forgotten practically all that was taught her in school. Although decidedly sub-normal, nevertheless married at twenty-two. Her husband died three years later. Since that time mother has supported herself by doing domestic work. Has acted as housekeeper in various homes, in each of which she has been taken advantage of. Rosie is the child of Charles K., a widower with three children, forty years of age, for whom mother worked as housekeeper for seven months. He has

These cases are also mentioned in Bulletin No. 2.
repeatedly followed her, and she is powerless to protect herself against him.

Dr. B., district physician, examined the woman and pronounced her markedly feeble-minded and unfit to be at large. Though incapable of properly supporting herself, no provision is possible in the way of institution care. The relatives are caring for the baby, and the mother, when last heard of, was living in a furnished room house with a number of men.

Mary N., 35 years, Irish, feeble-minded, married, husband alcoholic and vagrant.

Mother was born in Ireland. Came to this country when twenty-five, her mother regarding her as being unable to care for herself. Girl was placed in the care of her brother. Six months later, against the wishes of her brother, mother married and has had five children, four dying in infancy. The oldest child died 4, 30, '09 from chicken pox. Was examined by Dr. C., who pronounced her markedly feeble-minded and in need of permanent custodial care. This not being possible, the Society for Organizing Charity has been giving temporary relief and supervision, with the constant danger of the mother getting into the company of ill-meaning men.

Rose K., 24 years, German-American, feeble-minded, two illegitimate children, Marian, 6 years, Allen, 2½ years, by different fathers.

Rose's father was a heavy drinker. She was paralyzed from birth, and has improved but little. Nothing known of early life. Went to a place at service when she was twelve, gave birth to a child when she was eighteen, the father being the husband of her employer. This child was subsequently taken by Rose's mother, and is now in her care; seems normal. Mother came to notice of Bureau December, 1908, when she applied for a place at service with Allen. Was in very bad physical condition, and after treatment at the Philadelphia Hospital was discharged. Whereabouts at the present time unknown. This girl is particularly weak and unable to care for herself in any way. Her case illustrates the rather common sight of a defective woman who, because of the lack of institutional care, drifts to the country, where she is the victim of the most impossible practices.

Eva F., 21 years, American, white, feeble-minded, one child, 18 months old, illegitimate.

Eva was born in Mount Holly, N. J., and when very young was placed in an institution, her mother having died. At the age of five was boarded out with a farmer, where there were rough men. She suffered several criminal assaults. Was taken away
by her sister and placed with friends. At the age of eight began to show marked deficiencies. From her thirteenth year she knocked about in places of service until the fall of 1908, when being declared absolutely incompetent by a housewife in Philadelphia, she was admitted temporarily to the Philadelphia Hospital, and later sent to the Magdalen Home. There she was found to be pregnant, and was sent to the Sheltering Arms, her baby being born May 14, 1909. We had her examined by Dr. C., who classed her as feeble-minded, and in view of her social habits a dangerous character to society. Her relatives refuse to have anything to do with her because of her tendency to run constantly and promiscuously with men. She is in another place at service at the present time, but is quite unprotected and in line for a repetition of what is so constantly true of defective women. Her child is too young to show the possible results of its parentage.

Lavinia W., white, 15 years of age, middle grade feeble-minded child, came originally into the care of the Children's Aid Society in 1909, exact birthday unknown, was supposedly four years of age at that time. The parents are dead. We have very little information as to antecedents. The presumption is that the mother's people were more or less degenerate. Beginning with her sixth year Lavinia gave increasing trouble to her caretakers of the Children's Aid Society. Unable to learn, of no service in the home, and constantly given to sexual abuses. Numerous placements of the child were made until November, 1908, when she was brought to the city and placed by the Children's Aid Society in the care of the Seybert Institution, at Meadowbrook. Here she remained until September, 1909, when it was found necessary to remove her because of her bad influence on the other children. The report at that time was that she was thinking constantly of sexual matters, and was given to self-abuse and always seeking the companionship of the older boys and talking about filthy matters. She seemed absolutely void of self-control. Since the date of her removal she has been in the care of private families of the Children's Bureau in Philadelphia. Various people who have had her report that she is impossible to control, that they fear some harm will come to her. On two occasions she left the private families where she was staying (she was living in Olney at the time) and was found in another part of the city talking to men. No harm came to her, but the danger is nevertheless constant. It is wrong to expect an agency caring for normal children and unequipped for the care of defectives to be taxed with further supervision of a girl like Lavinia. In spite of all we are doing that nevertheless there is constant risk and danger that she may
become pregnant and give birth to a child as defective as herself. Numerous efforts have been made to place her in Elwyn, but this has been impossible because of the absence of funds. The remaining plan is to have her sent to the State Hospital at Norristown, but this is an institution for the insane, and not feeble-minded.

Louisa S., 32 years, German-American, white, Protestant, pronounced a middle or high grade imbecile by Dr. H., of the Philadelphia Hospital.

We have no information in regard to her mother, who is dead, and little in regard to her childhood. Her father states that Louisa was mentally deficient when born. Went out to service when nineteen. Was seduced by William L., a married man with a family. Gave birth to twins in the Philadelphia Hospital, one of which was still-born and had no mouth, and the other died soon after. Married Jacob S., a German, much older than herself. August 1, 1902, was admitted to the Philadelphia Hospital with a child one day old. Was kept in the isolation ward till 12, 15, '08. The child, Katie, was taken from her and is now in a private home in Trenton. Is decidedly subnormal. In May, 1905, Louisa was admitted to the insane ward in the Philadelphia Hospital, and remained there until 1, 27, '07. She was classed as a high or middle grade imbecile. She was discharged at the request of relatives. Did not return to her husband, and while living with her sister, Mrs. L., again became pregnant. February 2, '09, gave birth to twins in the Philadelphia Hospital. One was still-born. The other, Louisa, survived. March 10, '09, she made application to the Children's Bureau for a place at service with the child.

An effort was made to have her returned to the Philadelphia Hospital, but at Dr. N.'s suggestion it was decided to make application to the State Hospital at Norristown. As her father refused to take any drastic measures to have her examined, however, we were obliged to drop the case. At that time, April 28, '09, Louisa was at service with Mrs. D., 2006 North Twelfth Street.

July 25, '10, her sister, Mrs. L., Water Street, came to our office and stated that Louisa had come to her stepmother, Mrs. Y., and was found to be pregnant. The family was told that they must provide for her until time for her confinement, after which another effort would be made to place Louisa in the State Hospital. To our knowledge this woman has had five children, four of which were illegitimate, and all subnormal. She is pregnant for the sixth time, due to her unprotected condition. The Bureau has been powerless in preventing the recurring children because of the absence of any State provision. Some definite information as to the woman's record can be gathered from Mr. B., House Agent.
Annie F., 38 years, German, middle grade feeble-minded, one child. Mary, illegitimate, 5 years, feeble-minded.

Nothing known of Annie's parents except that her father cast her off because she showed signs of being queer when very young. Was placed in the House of Good Shepherd at the age of fourteen by her grandmother, who has since died. After being in the institution for eighteen years was removed by her sister against the advice of the Mother Superior. Went to service in the family of George A., in Chester. Nine months later (in June, 1906) gave birth to a child in the Philadelphia Hospital, George A. being the father. Is now at service with this subnormal child in a small village in South Jersey. She is constantly in the company of the farm hands in that neighborhood, but no means are at hand for protecting her. She has at times wandered the streets of Philadelphia, her ultimate shelter being a low furnished room house.

Mary D., 33 years, white, American, feeble-minded, one child, Mildred, 7 years, feeble-minded.

Nothing known of her parents except that they repudiated Mary when she gave birth to Mildred, who was an illegitimate child, 6, 14, '03. Mother first came to our attention February, 1909. She was working in an institution in Philadelphia as a domestic, Mildred being with her. Stayed but a short time, and tried various other places, but in each could give no satisfaction on account of her deficiency. Dr. F., of the Bethesda Home, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, examined her, and pronounced her subnormal. A brief medical record of the family states that the father of Mildred was an epileptic.

This woman, with her child, has been wandering from place to place trying domestic work of various kinds, and never succeeding. Application was made for her admission to the State Hospital at Norristown, but this was refused. The mother and child, in their unprotected condition, are both in constant danger, and should be under restraint. The child, improvable to a certain degree, is for lack of training deteriorating; and if care is ultimately provided, which under present conditions does not seem likely for some time, will be in such a state as to be more or less helpless.

These facts show:

1. That practically all (high grade) indigent and feeble-minded women become the mothers of illegitimate children soon after reaching the age of puberty.

2. That feeble-minded women produce many feeble-minded children. This truth has already been demonstrated many times by investigators of the ancestry of feeble-minded children. Here the reverse demonstration is made.

3. That the histories of these feeble-minded women and their feeble-minded children are practically the same. Their birth, poverty, helplessness, ruin and bearing of illegitimate feeble-minded children form parts of an endless chain, a recurring sequence. By means of it the State is continually supplied with degenerate human beings.
WHAT IS NEEDED

SEGREGATION OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED SO THAT DEGENERATE STOCK CANNOT BE TRANSMITTED, AND THE FEEBLE-MINDED WILL BE SAVED FROM RUIN.

PROPER INSTITUTIONS FOR THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED. RELIEVE OUR JAILS, ALMSHOUSES AND INSANE ASYLUMS OF MISFIT CASES. DELIVER THE FEEBLE-MINDED FROM THE JAILS, ALMSHOUSES AND INSANE ASYLUMS.

SEPARATE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE HIGH-GRADE AND LOW-GRADE CASES. THIS IS THE PRESENT URGENT NEED. THE HIGH-GRADE CASES IN AN INSTITUTION UNDER WISE MANAGEMENT ARE PRACTICALLY SELF-SUPPORTING—ARE ABLE TO DO FARM WORK AND SHOP WORK. IT IS CRUELTY TO SUCH PEOPLE TO PUT THEM IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HELPLESS LOW-GRADE IMBECILES AND IDIOTS. IN THE CASE OF CHILDREN, IN THE PAST, SUCH A POLICY HAS DETERRED PARENTS FROM PLACING THEIR CHILDREN IN OUR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

BETTER LAWS GOVERNING THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED. IN MANY STATES THERE IS NO DISTINCTION MADE BETWEEN THE INSANE AND FEEBLE-MINDED.