

Industrial Possibilities of the Feeble-minded within an Institution.
(*Proc. Amer. Assoc. for the Study of the Feeble-minded*, 1926.)
Raymond, C. S.

The late Dr. Walter E. Fernald, in his thirty-five years of work among the mentally defective, prepared in great detail a variety of occupations for his patients, and in this paper Dr. Raymond published lists of possible occupations for boys and girls at the mental age-levels of 3 or below to 11 years, based on classes actually in progress at the Walter E. Fernald State School at Waverley, Mass. While there are no known methods of psychological testing by the use of which it is possible to state definitely that a child with a certain mental age will perform successfully any given occupation, yet it is a great source of satisfaction for parents of defective children to know of the multitude of possibilities open to them, and in planning a programme of industrial training for such children Dr. Raymond maintains that it is wiser always to arrange for as wide a variety of occupations as possible in preference to specializing on any one particular industry. He laments somewhat that medical men and others giving advice on these matters occasionally are apt to make the sad error of laying stress on the limitations of aments rather than on the doors that may be opened for them and the numberless little windows they may be encouraged to look through, especially in a large institution—such a one as ever should be the ideal and aim of those whose duty it is to provide for the proper training of the feeble-minded.

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Adjustment of the Feeble-minded in Industry. (*Proc. Amer. Assoc. for the Study of the Feeble-minded*, 1926.) Burr, E.

In this paper the writer, who is the Director of the Vocational Adjustment Bureau of New York City, instances some of the benefits to be obtained by adopting the methods of vocational guidance in finding work in the community for mental defectives. It is distressing, however, to learn that in progressive America to-day "hundreds of thousands of children are gainfully employed in States where no restrictions as to child labor exists." Dr. Burr appears to adduce this fact, not as an indictment against the system that would employ such labour, but as an argument in favour of her contention that if these children can be used with profit in industry, "the same number of adults with child-minds can be utilized at the same tasks." Naturally, she argues, doing child-work, these aments would receive child-pay, but, she asks, "Would not this be preferable to their remaining unemployed and a total loss to the community?" And there is not a word more about those unfortunate "child laborers." Are the mental defectives to supplant them, or to supplement them? Altogether a startling discovery—and yet the U.S.A. fain would teach us befogged here in England "all about child culture."

H. FREIZE STEPHENS.