

Social Inadequacy as seen in the Defective Delinquent. (Proc. Amer. Assoc. for the Study of the Feeble-minded, 1926.) Branham, V. C.

This is an exhaustive study of 135 cases at the New York State Institution for Defective Delinquents. The author recognizes four well-defined groups, and classifies them as follows :

- I. *Community-conscious type (social).*
 - a. Good conduct group.
 1. Socially adjustable in community.
 2. Socially adjustable in confinement only.
 - b. Unstable group (psychopathic traits not well developed).
- II. *Community-indifferent type (asocial).*
 - a. Unplanned disorderly childish conduct (active low-grade feeble-minded group).
 - b. Highly suggestible and easily led (especially for sex offences—passive low-grade feeble-minded group).
- III. *Community-antagonistic type (anti-social).*
 - a. Marked aggressive resentment against authority.
 1. The assaultive type.
 2. The acquisitive type.
 3. Pre-paranoid states.
 - b. Feebly-expressed resentment against authority.
 1. The pilfering type.
 2. The disorderly, destructive type (planned).
- IV. *Community-irresponsible type (irresponsible).*
 - a. The toxicant group (alcohol, drugs).
 - b. The psychopathic group.
 1. Fairly constant abnormal behaviour.
 2. Inconstant abnormalities (cross index with I.b).
 - c. The episodic group.
 1. Subject to marked emotional upsets.
 2. Epileptics.
 3. Transient delusional states.
 - d. The actively psychotic group (insane).

The author believes that any of the members of these groups with suitable training and treatment might be able eventually to find his way back into the community, but the largest numbers of those most likely to do so are to be found in the community-conscious or social class, even as the psychopathic and least adjustable of these cases he places at the bottom of his list, in Class IV. Further, Dr. Branham contends that as each of these groups demands special methods of occupational activities, housing and treatment, his classification scheme ensures a practical working plan for group segregation.

H. FREIZE STEPHENS.

The Eugenic Sterilization of the Feeble-minded. (Proc. Amer. Assoc. for the Study of the Feeble-minded, 1926.) Laughlin, H. H.

Twenty-three States in America have enacted laws to provide for the sexual sterilization of certain degenerate individuals, and

up to July 1, 1925, 1,374 feeble-minded persons have been dealt with in this way; but, says Dr. Laughlin, "most of the cases of sexual sterilization under the present laws have been applied to the insane, although the remedy was originally, and still is most logically, applicable to the feeble-minded."

Four types of operation have been employed, two in the case of each sex. Considerable research in experimental surgery, however, is still necessary, especially as to a simpler operation for the certain sterilization of the female; it is, therefore, interesting to note that the Committee on Maternal Health in America is conducting necessary research along this line.

A systematic study of sterilization physiology is also required. Many of the individuals who were sexually sterilized some ten or more years ago are still living; abstracts of their case-histories up to the time of their sterilization are available. These case-histories, Dr. Laughlin suggests, should be brought up to date with a view to determining "the physiological, mental and the temperamental effects upon each social type, sex and age of persons sterilized, and classified, of course, by the type of operation." The indications, he adds, seem to be that no physiological harm has come from the operations, but "more exact data of benefit or harm must await the following up of the case-histories."

H. FREIZE STEPHENS.

Mental Hygiene as Applied to the Feeble-minded. (Proc. Amer. Assoc. for the Study of the Feeble-minded, 1926.) Pratt, G. K.

In so far as any have been as yet coherently formulated, the principles of mental hygiene are as applicable to the feeble-minded as to the normal child, and none of these is as important as that underlying the inculcation of the habit of *facing reality squarely*. Dr. Pratt rightly maintains that "it is a false and an unwise and a misplaced sympathy that declines to teach the intellectually subnormal the necessity of assuming their share of the world's disagreeable but quite necessary tasks. Of course in the case of the defective these tasks and responsibilities must be graded intelligently to meet fairly the individual's lessened capacity. But to absolve a child, merely because his intellect is below par, from any and all of the duties of real life is as certain to lead to adult selfishness, delinquency and a difficult personality as it would be in the case of a normal child."

As in the normal, too, excessive day-dreaming in aments is to be discouraged; but, more than in the normal, considerable patience and tact must be exercised in teaching mental defectives to reconcile their low intellectual capacities with, often, such high ambitions and desires, to face and accept their limitations in one sphere, while being willing to re-shape their life-plans and hopes on a lower plane in another. Yet there is a considerable danger to be avoided in this endeavour lest there be instilled that conviction of hopeless inferiority so readily acquired by the feeble in mind. Dr. Pratt discusses the treatment of this distressing condition in aments,