

offspring as a rule all show the defect; when a normal mates with a defective, their offspring appear more or less normal, though all carry the defect; when two tainted people, though apparently normal, mate, the result is on the average one untainted normal person, two apparently normal persons carrying the taint and one showing the defect. It is however inadmissible to conclude that the mating of a normal person even of sound stock with a defective will necessarily be productive of completely sound offspring, for dominance of the normal over the recessive is sometimes incomplete. The most important defect generally now acknowledged to be due to a single recessive trait is Feeble-mindedness, and it conforms fairly closely to the rule stated above. (Goddard's *Feeble-mindedness*.) These diseases and defects, whether dependent on dominant, sex-linked or recessive traits, are of varying importance, and every case must be considered on its merits.

The problem of the Feeble-minded is by far the most important and it can only be dealt with by legislation, for persons of low mentality are incapable of dealing with it themselves. Its importance is enhanced by two facts: first, the fertility of the feeble-minded is very high; second, there is a very close association between feeble-mindedness and other undesirable conditions such as epilepsy, insanity, alcoholism, criminality, prostitution and illegitimacy. (Goddard's *Feeble-mindedness*) and therefore if mental defectives and carriers ceased to have children, cases of these conditions also would become less common.

A slight attempt has already been made to deal with the problem of the mentally defective by legislation, which allows of the segregation of the feeble-minded, but this law has not been enforced, and it remains for eugenicists to urge the importance of dealing effectively with all degenerate stocks. By a determined national effort it might be hoped that not only Feeble-mindedness but other highly heritable defects such as Epilepsy, the transmissible forms of Insanity, Congenital Deaf-mutism, etc., would be stamped out in a comparatively short space of time. But this could only be done by the introduction of more extensive schemes of segregation, or, if public opinion

permitted, by sterilisation when this is preferred by the patient. (H. H. Laughlin, "Eugenical Sterilisation in the United States.")

III. *Conception Control should be discouraged in the higher social classes and encouraged in the lowest class.*

The greater difficulty would however still remain of the diminished fertility of what must on the whole be called the higher classes. What steps can be taken to insure that a larger proportion of our children shall be born from the best and healthiest stocks?

(A) The social conscience should be aroused to the idea that a large family is the greatest good which can be offered to the State by capable and gifted people; that no desire for culture, freedom from care, or even for a career of usefulness to society can compensate for the failure to hand on a superior heredity to the next generation. Many offer financial reasons as the excuse for complete or partial childlessness, but the adoption of a simple style of living and the renunciation of a desire for wealth or luxury would in many cases render possible a good sized family, and the realisation of the importance of heredity over environment would make these people cease to postpone child-bearing until educational and financial advantages are perfect. Early marriages are advisable when numerous children are desirable, but young people should be encouraged to aim high in marriage and to mate only with those who are perfect in mind and body and who come of a good stock.

On the other hand, there is sometimes an unwise sensitiveness in the intellectual classes about the possibility of a slight defect in the offspring. Except in cases belonging to the groups already discussed, it is difficult to calculate the quality of the offspring of a particular mating on account of the multiplicity of interacting factors in the heredity. All we can say is that the mingling of good stocks will on the whole produce offspring of good quality.

It must be remembered that certain defects acquired before or during birth are similar in type to heritable defects. For instance, talipes and other congenital deformities are often inherited, but the same may be acquired; even feeble-mindedness