

of any so-called reform to consider the effect upon the race rather than upon separate individuals.

V. *Segregation and Sterilisation.* Increased segregation is generally advocated as a means of birth control, but this in many cases proves a cruel remedy, and voluntary sterilisation might always be offered as a substitute. Sterilisation does not mean castration, which is more or less serious on account of the alteration of the endocrine secretions; it means Vasectomy and Salpingectomy in male and female respectively, operations which are supposed to have no effect beyond the production of sterility. Vasectomy is an operation free from danger; even Salpingectomy presents little greater risk to life than an ordinary confinement. These operations should be entirely voluntary, never punitive, and they should never be applied indiscriminately to those who are already undergoing segregation as has sometimes been the case in America. They should rather be reserved for those who for eugenic reasons desire sterility and for the higher grade mentally deficient. Idiots and imbeciles are not attractive as a rule, and also they are protected to some extent by friends or by public authorities from becoming parents, but the higher grade mentally deficient frequently possess qualities attractive to the opposite sex, and the danger which they present to society is liable to be underestimated. Yet they often resent segregation and many might prefer to undergo the operation of sterilisation. Should these sterilised feeble-minded persons of either sex show a tendency to promiscuous sex relationships, thus increasing the spread of venereal disease, they would more suitably be segregated.