ABSTRACTS AND REVIEWS

E. A. DOLL. *Clinical Studies in Feeble-Mindedness*. Boston: Richard G. Badger, 1917. Pp. 232. \$2.50.

For ten years Dr. H. H. Goddard with a corps of able assistants has been studying the problems of feeble-mindedness in a most careful and scientific way at the Vineland Research Laboratory. When he began his researches relatively little thought was given this subject; now, feeble-mindedness is considered a profound sociological and economical problem and, as a consequence, almost every body from women's clubs to "Uncle Sam" is talking about it. Such confidence, of late, has been placed in the students of feeble-mindedness that the educationalists are demanding of them how to classify children in school; judges to tell them what to do with offenders; eugenists what people should marry; and "Uncle Sam" has commandeered hundreds of these students to tell him whether his boys are fit to fight for freedom.

The Vineland Laboratory is responsible for initiating this great movement and it has done more real research work, collected and evaluated more data, and, in general, contributed more toward giving to students of feeble-mindedness their standing today than any other institution in the world. Therefore it is very fitting that some one representing this laboratory should tell the outside world what conclusions, in reference to feeble-mindedness, they have come to, and something of the procedure followed by them in coming to these conclusions.

This has been done, unusually well, by Mr. Edgar A. Doll in his book entitled *Clinical Studies in Feeble-Mindedness*. Mr. Doll was, for five years, assistant psychologist in the Vineland Laboratory and is now serving as a lieutenant in the department of psychology in the army.

In this book, Mr. Doll has given to the public the important findings which a trained mind can glean relative to feeble-mindedness by living with the feeble-minded and by studying them under the most favorable circumstances. The book is wonderfully condensed—intended primarily for the student of feeble-mindedness—yet it is so readable that it cannot fail to be of great interest and value to the layman. Educators, doctors, lawyers, in fact, anyone who wishes to know the present status of our knowledge relative to feeble-mindedness will find this book not only a rich store house of information, but the many explicit references given by the author make it easy for anyone to pursue the subject further if desired.

The book is divided into two parts. Part I deals with diagnostic criteria and is divided into three chapters. The first chapter sets forth in a clear cut way the problems to be considered. The scope of chapters two and three can best be judged from the following table of contents:

Chapter II, Criteria and Definitions. The Psychological Criterion. The Social Criterion. The Pedagogical Criterion. The Medical Criterion. The Somatic Criterion. The Hereditary Criterion.

Chapter III, Diagnostic Methods and Values. General Principles. The Diagnostic Syllabus; Personal History; Clinical Examination. The Family History Examination; Method; Value for Diagnosis; Value for Etiology; Types of Mating and Expected Offspring. The Social Status Examination; Method; Value. The Medical Examination; Method; Value. The Somatic Examination; Method. The Pedagogical Examination; Method; Value. The Psychological Examination; Importance; Methods; Value.

Part II is taken up with the consideration of six "Illustrative Cases."

The tests used and studies made in family history and other sources of information are recorded in full, and are accompanied by a diagnosis and a prognosis. The treatment of these cases is most illuminating. Contrary to the commonly accepted opinion that the Binet tests are about the only criterion used in passing upon a person's mentality, Mr. Doll in testing these six cases used about twenty-five other tests. He gives the reaction of each case to each test and designates its value in the final diagnosis. The following are the cases considered:

Case I. Obviously Feeble-Minded by Binet-Simon Tests.

Case II. Potentially Feeble-Minded.

Case III. Potentially Normal.

Case IV. Deaf-mute, Neurotic or Psychopathic but not Feeble-minded.

Case V. Psychopathic with slight Intellectual Retardation, not amounting to Feeble-Mindedness.

Case VI. High Grade Borderline Immigrant.

These cases are not intended to be typical but the method of arriving at a diagnosis in each case is typical of the method of procedure that should be followed before making a final diagnosis. The book closes with a carefully selected bibliography of seventeen pages followed by a glossary of the more common technical terms used in the text, and a brief description of thirty tests often used in making mental examinations.

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