

The Journal OF Nervous and Mental Disease

An American Journal of Neurology and Psychiatry, Founded in 1874.

Original Articles

RETARDATION AND CONSTITUTIONAL INFERIORITY IN CONNECTION WITH EDUCATION AND CRIME¹

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It is with some misgivings that I have undertaken to open this discussion upon retardation and constitutional inferiority in connection with education and crime, because of the almost countless aspects which the subject has, and a profound sense of my own inability to treat of it at all adequately, but I trust that what I have to say may at least act as an inspiration to those who are present, who will be able to throw more light upon some of these aspects.

First of all, of course, arises the question as to what we should understand by retardation and constitutional inferiority. In regard to the first of these, retardation, I shall take it for granted that we may neglect the falling behind in the school routine which is caused by such things as absence due to acute diseases of various kinds and also that arising from the removal of children from one school to another, where the dropping back in grades can be accounted for by lack of correspondence in the subjects taught in the different schools. On a somewhat different footing stands retardation in the schools due to sense defect, such as imperfect sight, or hearing. Cases of this description have been made the subject of investigation recently in the public schools of Boston. The masters were requested to report such

¹Read at the meeting of the American Neurological Association in Boston, May 31, 1912.

cases to the school board, and these children were then examined by physicians who were specialists in such troubles, and the results were rather unsatisfactory, in that it was found that in a very large proportion of cases in which the backwardness in school work was supposed to be due to a sense defect this was not the case; the parents and teachers having erred. Partly on this account, therefore, and partly because in many of the cases when sense defects are present they can be easily corrected, it has seemed to me best to omit this class of cases from consideration. Adenoid disease stands upon a somewhat similar footing. Undoubtedly the presence of marked enlargement of adenoid tissue in the naso-pharynx has a deleterious effect upon the vigor of a child, and is a frequent cause of impairment of hearing, but in my opinion the presence of adenoid disease, aside from its effects in causing absence from school, or by impairment of hearing, is never the cause of any serious retardation in school work.

In the Report of the Health Department of the City of Boston, under which department the medical inspection of the public schools is placed, I find the following figures:

Pupils Examined	1908, 51,099	1909, 68,858	1910, 61,055
Adenoid disease	2,075	2,892	3,087
Imperfect hearing.....	194	313	327
Imperfect sight.....	883	608	617
Epilepsy.....	11	13	13

What proportion of these children in whom these defects were found on examination were retarded in their school work, I cannot give you exactly, but the proportion was not large.

If we take up the question of the proportion of children retarded in the grades of the Boston public schools for the past three years including in these figures those kept back in their school work for any reason, including illness, changes from private and other schools, as well as a certain amount of retardation caused by the recent change from a course of nine grades to one of eight grades below the high school, we find in 1909 8.7 per cent. of all the pupils. The greatest proportion of these retardations as found in the first primary grade where there were 17.3 per cent. while the proportion for the remaining grades, if the first grade was omitted, fell to about 7 per cent. Of these

retarded pupils in 1909, the masters reported 4.2 per cent. as being slow in their studies from inattention or from mental deficiency. Those considered by the masters as mentally deficient were 361 in number, or about 0.5 per cent., not including 116 children enrolled in the special classes for backward children.

In 1910 the figures were 8,496 retarded pupils in 80,770 in these grades below the high school, and of these 8,496 they classed 880 as mentally deficient, a fraction less than 1.1 per cent. of all the children enrolled.

The classification by the teachers, however, gave somewhat different figures. According to their reports in June, 1910, there were 80,908 children in attendance in the primary grades, and 10.5 per cent. of these were retarded—in all, 8,496. The causes were given as follows:

Illness—infectious diseases, etc.....	1,252
Absence (home work, truancy, etc.).....	468
Entered school late	650
Entered from other schools	405
Repeated change of schools	181
Recently from foreign countries	331
Promoted on trial at beginning of year	239
Defective hearing	83
Defective vision	241
Defective speech	53
Deformities	31
Lazy	538
Inattentive	495
Mentally deficient	369
Mentally immature (slow mental development).....	2,803
Cause unknown	196
Adenoids	13
Nervous	7
Cigarette smokers	14
Miscellaneous	127
	<u>8,496</u>

Of these 55.4 per cent. were boys and 44.6 per cent. girls.

In 1911 (June), of 89,199 scholars in the primary grades, 10,668 failed of promotion, of which 2,339 were in the first grade.

During the past school year, beginning in 1911, the number of special classes in the Boston public schools for backward children was greatly increased. In September, 1911, there were nine such classes, while during the school year ten more were started. At the present time in these special classes there are 101 boys and 91 girls, 192 in all. In addition there are 100 more children who have been examined and assigned to special classes when

these are started. In addition during this past year 92 boys and 38 girls, 130 in all, were rejected for admission to the special classes as being of too low mental grade. Of these 26 have been assigned to the State School for Feeble Minded at Waverly, and 5 are known to be out of school upon the streets.

The number reported in the schools as being probably suitable for the special classes, but not yet in them, in addition to the figures given, is 454 boys and 234 girls, or 688 in all. Dr. Jelly, the special examiner in mental deficiency for the Boston School Board, also writes me: "I have received from teachers of special classes (whose judgment is undoubtedly more correct about mental defect than masters' and grade teachers', or nurses') report that they know about 200 cases in the schools that should be sent to the State School at Waverly or Wrentham."

I wish to thank Dr. Harrington, chief medical inspector of the Boston School Board and Dr. A. C. Jelly, the special examiner, for their kindness in providing me the above figures and much valuable information.

In considering these figures there are one or two points to which I wish especially to call your attention. First, that these figures include not at all the total proportion of imbecile children in the community, but only those where the mental defect has been so slight that it has been overlooked by the family and others, or where the parents have hoped the child could learn in the public schools. That is, of the 330 or more children now in the public schools of Boston who should probably be sent to a state institution, there are probably none of the idiotic or very low grade imbecile classes. On the other hand I think the opinion of those who have had special experience in examining the high-grade imbecile justifies us in considering that a large proportion of the children reported by the masters as retarded because of inattention, laziness, and immaturity, are undoubtedly imbecile.

Of course we all admit that it is difficult to define what is meant by mental deficiency just as it is difficult to define what is meant by mental disease. Practically however, in relation to education it is of the greatest importance—and for two reasons. The first is that undoubtedly the presence in the graded schools of children who are mentally deficient tends to retard somewhat the progress of the other children, while the effect upon their

morals and manners of having such a child about who may be the object of their propensities for teasing, tormenting, ridicule, and even cruelty, need only to be spoken of to be recognized. On the other hand the prospect of such a defective child advancing in useful education in the general classes is almost nil.

It is the recognition of these evils that have led to the establishment in Boston of the so-called special classes to which it is planned to assign all cases of mentally defective pupils who show some promise of being improvable. The masters reported in the year 1911 in the special classes, 125 as improvable, 29 as unimprovable. Not in the special classes, improvable 516, unimprovable 142. Not in school and probably not improvable 49—a total of 861.

Lapage in his recent book upon *Feeble Mindedness in Children of School Age* gives some valuable statistics from the English schools. These figures were obtained from a series of investigations in regard to defective children by societies and commissions which were very complete. In these statistics, particularly those from the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble Minded in 1908, it was found that, exclusive of insane, 1 in 217 or 0.46 per cent. of the population were mentally deficient, idiotic, imbecile, feeble minded, or moral imbeciles. The proportion in the schools were higher, probably because many of these children die earlier in life than normal persons. Here the proportion was 1:127, or 0.79 per cent., and larger in cities than in rural communities, the former being estimated at 1 per cent. and the latter at 0.5 per cent. Of 436,833 children registered in the schools, 3,437 were mentally defective, and of these it was estimated that at least 75 per cent. or 2,590 needed special provision made for them. This means, if the same proportions hold true for other parts of England as in those examined, that in England and Wales there are 47,515 defective children on the school register out of 6,044,394 registered, and 35,804 of these needing provision, and it should be noted that these figures do not include all defectives, as the worse cases are not on the register. In the same investigation of 2,353 prisoners, 242 or 10.28 per cent. were found to be mentally deficient, and 62.7 per cent. of habitual inebriates who were examined. As to the results of training in institutions for the care of imbeciles, the figures of Dr. Caldecott, of the Earlswood Institution, are

of interest. He states that approximately one-fifth of the inmates are high-grade, trainable imbeciles. Of 341 cases discharged in 15 years, 3.25 per cent. were earning wages, 3.81 per cent. were at home and very useful, 7.5 per cent. at home and useful, while 85.5 per cent. had proved to be of no use and should have been taken care of for life. At Lancaster 37 per cent. of the cases were high-grade imbeciles. Of those discharged 9 per cent. were earning wages, 33.5 per cent. were at home, and 40.3 per cent. were in work houses or asylums and it was concluded none of the cases should have gone out into the world. The After Care Commission of Birmingham reported in 1910 after nine years of investigation that of 650 cases 18 per cent. were doing remunerative work while 65 per cent., at least, were not. The employment bureau after four years of work had been given up because of the impossibility of obtaining and retaining ordinary situations for any but an extremely limited number of their high-grade cases. Situations may be found but the feeble minded do not retain them especially when they get older and the difference between them and their fellows is accentuated.

In deciding whether a child is mentally deficient, as has been said, there are various difficulties. First of all, of course, is the question of deciding what is that indefinite thing which we call normal. Usually we mean by normal merely the average, and a child may not do as well as others in school work either from falling below the average in mentality, or on the other hand from mental onesidedness. Then too, there is the difficulty that in all psychical matters there is a lack of very definite measures of the capacity. We can test certain things in this field, but not the mind as a whole. However, we may not go far astray if we consider a mind normal, as in the case of other organs, when it is capable of fulfilling its function and the function of mind in the human being may be briefly expressed for our purpose as enabling the person to accommodate himself to his surroundings and to protect himself. A person is mentally sound who is capable of leading a useful life and this is as true of children in their relation to education as it is of all persons in their wider social relationships, the difference being that of a child we demand only what its age warrants. Schools are planned for the average, but we must remember that testing a child's knowledge is not all, and that in considering the effect of the mental develop-

ment upon the person's adaptability and fitness in life, we must consider also the feelings, impulses, and the will. Usually these qualities of the mind are considered to be voluntary matters, and defects in this region are regarded as moral obliquities or reprehensible weakness. But while this is true in part it is not wholly true, and we find that the training of the will may have its limits, even as the understanding and intellectual ability have theirs. We are safe in assuming that the child will show its fitness for life if it has half way proper external conditions and be capable, not only of performing its tasks of the time, but also show the capacity for being trained for a useful and rational life. If this training causes marked difficulties or requires extraordinary methods, then one is justified with the greatest probability in assuming that the child is mentally abnormal. To judge properly of abnormality, however, we must consider the whole history, the origin and social position of the child, the influences with which it has been surrounded and brought up, former illnesses, as well as take into account the results of the physical and mental examination, and at times prolonged observation is necessary in addition in order to arrive at correct conclusions. In general the child's teacher sees that he does not learn easily and has difficulty in understanding things, is easily distracted, inattentive, indifferent, not well behaved either in or out of the class room, and perhaps most important of all develops entirely differently from its brothers and sisters who have had the same surroundings and are being trained and taught by the same people. In judging of a child or grown person's mentality the untrained see either too much or too little, while the half trained are apt to see too much and regard as abnormal what is the result of surroundings and example, or of perverse will, where the person has been badly brought up, neglected, or is lazy. The ignorant person does not recognize that in judging of mental abnormality a single thing when considered by itself may be precisely what is seen in normal persons and so think the same explanation and the same treatment indicated. In the psychical field a single act, instance, or symptom usually means nothing, and its significance can only be recognized when it is judged in its relation to other facts.

Nor must we forget that psychical anomalies are much more common than mental disease, and many high-grade imbeciles, and psychopathic persons in all ranks and classes go through life

misunderstood, most of them with no insight into their own condition, while others feel that they differ from the majority of their fellow creatures. Many of these abnormal persons as children are abused, and at all ages their peculiarities are apt to make them unlovable. Most of such persons do not end in institutions either for the insane or the imbecile, but they are found in large numbers in prisons, poor houses, reformatories and homes for drunkards. Environment makes no child feeble minded or constitutionally inferior.

What has been said in regard to mental deficiency considered in its wider aspects as applying to the qualities of the mind which are necessary for the proper development of character, as well as to the more purely intellectual qualities of the mind, applies with equal force to what, as I take it, we mean when we speak of constitutional inferiority, and most of what I have just said would have to be repeated in speaking of this aspect of the question.

The classification of the forms of constitutional inferiority can be varied almost indefinitely with the point of view with which the subject is regarded. Abnormalities of character are seen in various mental diseases, and also in many nervous diseases, as hysteria, epilepsy, and chorea for example, in some instances as temporary phenomena, and in others as permanent ones, as is so often seen in hysteria and epilepsy, and in both these diseases the abnormal mental states which occur as occasional causes of crimes are particularly well known, such as the false accusations of hysterics, and the crimes of violence committed in the temporary confusional states of epileptics to mention single striking examples. In general, however, when we speak of constitutional inferiority, we have in mind rather inborn mental abnormalities, more or less permanent, which have affected the person's character and mental make-up in such a way as to have interfered with his proper development in fitness for living a useful life, and these abnormalities are comprised largely under the group of psychopathies, or better, psychopathic inferiorities. The subdivisions of this group are somewhat indefinite, and in almost any classification we find more or less overlapping of groups or combinations of types. It has seemed to me that perhaps as satisfactory a grouping of these psychopathics as any is that of Scholz, as given in his recent book, *Anormale Kinder*.

In this classification I leave out the feeble minded, the simple nervousness, or nervous excitability, neurasthenia, hysteria, epilepsy and chorea, in all of which abnormal psychical symptoms occur, but which are perhaps better separated from the strict psychopathies, reserving this term more for the abnormal states seen upon a constitutional basis, not implying, however, that these are necessarily permanent.

We may divide then the psychopathies according to the dominant characteristics into the following types: (1) The indolent, (2) the depressed, (3) the maniacal, (4) the periodic, (5) the emotional, (6) the impulsive, (7) the unstable, (8) the perverse, (9) the phantastic, (10) the imperative, (11) the moral defective, (12) the sexual.

These classes of abnormal mental characteristics are essentially always borderline cases between mental disease and mental soundness, and as you see may include many of the mental symptoms that occur either transitionally or permanently in such cases as the merely excitable child, hysteria, epileptics and perhaps others. We should remember, however, that in considering the individual case which may show certain of the characteristics of these groups, we must not give too much weight to peculiarities, as these are not sufficient to warrant conclusions of a psychopathic state, but peculiarities must be judged in relation to the whole character, and there must be a definite irregularity in the development of psychical functions.

These psychopathic types of character may also be acquired, under various influences, of which the most important is that of alcoholism, or again as frequently seen in those who have suffered an attack of mental disease from which they are supposed to have recovered, but who are never able again quite to fit into normal life as they were before their illness. Many of these psychopaths are talented, but onesided, of whom people say, how much that man could accomplish if he were only willing to restrain himself, characteristics which are so common that they justify the saying of Josh Billings that he would rather see his daughter marry a porcupine than a genius. In this type of person, as is also the case with the slighter grades of feeble mindedness, the social position and the possession of wealth, especially where this has been beyond the control of the individual himself, often makes the chief difference in the outcome. It is

the poor and untalented chiefly among the psychopathic whose end is so often a tragedy.

In these types, too, we trace distinctly in many instances the resemblance to the common types of insanity, many being probably merely abortive insanities, though it by no means follows that persons of these particular psychopathic types are certain or even very likely to develop in time true insanities. Uncontrollable anger may become mania; anxiety dread; fear and suspicion increase to delusions; or the play of fancy becomes illusions, but by no means necessarily. In children particularly we find simpler examples of these psychopathic characteristics, and they may be temporary, especially those appearing about the time of puberty and even the severe cases by no means always end in insanity.

1. Of the indolent psychopath, the apathetic feeble minded child is the type which they most closely resemble. They show lack of interest and enthusiasm both in regard to work and play, are contented with themselves, and are uninfluenced by praise or blame. They resemble in many respects the onset of the hebephrenic type of dementia præcox. When this indifference is partial, for certain things only, we approach the normal, as every person has his particular lines of interest, thought and feeling, which may be natural or acquired.

2. The depressed. A child with no happy moments we regard as abnormal, as a characteristic of children is that their sorrows are short lived, and they live only in the moment, certainly as regards the feeling tone. This type is often seen as a transitory phase at puberty, when happiness may be found in unhappiness, but this passes, and we may regard as pathological the cases where it becomes permanent, and with passing years and increased experience the person fails to recognize their foolishness.

3. The maniacal type. By this form we mean those who show excessive and continued unrest both mental and physical, who as children are unable to listen for the end of a story, in school are restless and unmanageable and inattentive. The essential characteristic is the lack of need of rest.

4. The periodic shows on the contrary an alternation of depression and activity, which is unnatural and excessive, and usually without evident cause. Here we do not as a rule see any distinct periodicity as to time in the mood alterations. In

these cases as in most of the psychopathics we find that punishment aggravates the trouble instead of helping.

5. The emotional type is marked chiefly by outbreaks of feeling which are transitory. Here again the criterion of abnormality must be in the disproportion between cause and effect. Not only is the cause apt to be trifling, while more important causes may produce no reaction, but in addition the reaction is excessive, the small child loses its breath when in a rage, turns purple, and perhaps becomes unconscious. Such outbreaks are not confined to those of rage only and when these characteristics are present must be due to temporary causes, or have a constitutional basis, or be the result of idiocy, epilepsy or hysteria. Terror and anger are the most important affects seen.

6. Impulsives. Here we have to deal with single motives, though this may not be clear, while in voluntary things the motive is multiple, and we also mean impulses to actions, not to single acts, as in the tics. The commonest is the impulse to run away. In normal children this is seen in the impulse to follow a band organ, a band or circus. When arising from within only, we get the wandering away from good homes, which give us many of our vagabonds, tramps and prostitutes. Here probably belong certain of the old monomaniacs, as kleptomaniacs, pyromaniacs and others, though we should remember that these things are symptoms and not diseases, and mean generally psychopathies, epilepsy, hysteria, imbecility, or insanity as dementia paralytica. We must remember too that others have impulses but oppose them, as drinkers. An impulse too which is natural at three years is often pathological for a child of ten. The imperative impulse may lead to mania for collecting, often of useless or disgusting things, and is seen most often in the feeble minded and may lead to theft; and this is also true of incendiarism, but here we should seek carefully for motives which may be in homesickness, anxiety or fear and is frequently connected with alcoholism. Murderous impulses are rare, aside from those in epileptic states, and when seen are most frequently the expression of cruelty, particularly in the feeble minded, or upon a sadistic basis with congenital moral defect, and in childhood it should not be forgotten that this is usually replaced by cruelty to animals.

7. The unstable are characterized by the absence of any constant psychical tone, the ephemeral type of person, changeable

and unreliable. These may get through the schools after a fashion, but fail to adapt themselves to life afterwards. Often entertaining, amusing, with signs of talent, they continually change occupation, are never to blame, become in the better classes the dilettants of life and in the lower, the beggars and vagabonds.

8. The perverse type reminds us of the paranoiac. As children they may cherish fancies, as that they are of high estate by birth, while later they frequently become hypochondriacs or persons who believe only their point of view is right, and augment the ranks of spiritualists, free lovers, women suffragists, anti-vaccinationists, anti-vivisectionists, vegetarians, homeopaths and faddists in general, persons whom laws only irritate. As Goethe says the most foolish of the erring are those who, with good heads, think they have lost their originality when they accept as truth, what has been already recognized as true by others.

9. Phantastics and liars. Here we deal with an exaggeration of what is normal. Psychology has shown that most persons are poor observers, what we perceive being modified and interpreted, and so changed. This is also more marked in children, who in speaking their fancies often actually lie. The normal child, however, does distinguish between reality and his day dreams, and does not lose himself, though these characteristics usually increase as love and sex impulse develops. These characteristics may be considered pathological when fantasies and lies become necessary to the individual and the occasions are manufactured. This is seen in its purest forms in the hysterical, epileptic and feeble minded, but also in degenerates, drinkers, morphinists, and not infrequently in the talented and may be periodic.

10. The imperative. Here again we have our analogue in the normal, and the imperative is related to the impulsive only the impulse is more momentary in the latter. In the imperative there is more a feeling of compulsion, and it is united with feelings of discomfort or connected with fears, scruples and doubts. This seldom leads to crimes which are seen more in the impulsive type, but is frequently seen as a symptom in imbecility and hysteria.

11. Moral defectives. This type again appears as a symptom

in the feeble minded and in insanities, and the question arises whether such character defects are possible without mental defect. Usually some intellectual defect can be found, but the real question is whether moral inferiority can be of pathological origin, and to this we must give an affirmative answer. Moral anesthesia is a better term and we must recognize that mind and morals are not similar qualities. The defect seems more one of will, and feeling is absent. We may distinguish an erethritic and a torpid type. In these superficiality of thought is characteristic. The child is cruel to others, lies, steals, plays truant, is troublesome and a mischief maker in school, and most essential of all, neither persuasion, example, nor punishment has any effect. The course depends somewhat upon circumstances. At times they develop into hoodlums, members of gangs, apaches, and prostitutes, while among the richer classes, we find these dismissed from school after school, borrowers from inferiors, these living openly immoral lives with no feeling of shame or regard for their families. Congenital forms or acquired forms are difficult to distinguish, but pathological instances are probably exceptional.

12. The sexual psychopathies form a difficult group to distinguish. At first sex impulses are vague and undifferentiated, being actuated more by mere curiosity. Differentiation comes usually soon after puberty in the neighborhood of fifteen years, but may be considerably later. Homosexuality is not always present even in the most intimate friendships of young people of the same sex. Sexual crime in itself does not prove a defective mental state, and homosexuality is not a disease phenomenon, nor directly a symptom of constitutional inferiority, though it may be a symptom of this. Other sexual anomalies than homosexuality, which may appear on a psychopathic basis, are the combination of cruelty with lust. The sexual anomalies of the feeble minded do not represent immorality or perversion of the instinct.

It is easy to see how children of these various types of which we have been speaking are handicapped in life and become difficult to educate in the ordinary schools. They form a considerable proportion, not so much of retarded children, as the unmanageable, the truants, the bad boys. Certain types, how-

ever, as the indolent type, may be backward in school from mere lack of interest and inattention.

From these classes, the psychopathic person and the feeble minded of all grades, as well as occasionally from epileptics and hysterics, we find a certain proportion of our criminals, both occasional and habitual, though more often these abnormal psychical traits lead to such things as vagabondage and chronic alcoholism, drug habits, or something of this nature, rather than to law breaking. We can easily see from the characteristics of the various types of abnormal persons that certain ones lead more directly than others to crimes and usually to crimes of a certain type.

Certain types are, for example responsible for some of the suicides, especially child suicides. Eulenberg analyzed the cases of child suicide in Prussia for the years 1880 to 1903, and found the number not increasing, averaging 54 a year in school children, and he classified the causes in these cases as hebephrenia, confusional states, psychopathies, feeble mindedness, which caused many of the cases, and more rarely imitation, while a few were from sexual causes.

The depressed type of psychopath tends chiefly to suicide. The maniacal type results mostly in alcoholism, sexual irregularities, and swindling. The emotional mostly produces such things as slandering letters, incendiarism, occasionally suicide, violence to others, wanton destructiveness, or senseless running away, accidental circumstances seeming often to determine the character of the offense. The impulsive psychopath in crime tends mostly to theft, or running away, which in older persons may of course determine a life of vagabond, tramp, or prostitute, these forming chiefly the group who cannot be retained in institutions even by force. Some spendthrifts, drunkards, and gamblers belong here. The question often almost impossible to answer being where does disease begin. Murderous impulses are rare and probably belong to the epileptic confusional states, or the imperative type of psychopath, and here more frequently in connection with cruelty and frequently with a sadistic basis, and then usually combined with a congenital moral defect, and a bad mode of life. The unstable person tends chiefly to vagabondage, begging and alcoholism. Our perverse type of psychopath seldom leads to crime and the same is true of the imperative type

of psychopath, aside from suicide. The moral defectives are perhaps the most frequent criminals. The erethritic type tending chiefly to brutality, lying, stealing, truancy and vagabondage, often ending in the apache of the French, the hooligan of the English, or our hoodlum gang, or in the case of girls, in prostitution. The sexual type of psychopath seldom tends to crime, unless perhaps in the homosexual habits, the most sexual crimes when on a psychopathic basis having one of the other types of psychopathy underlying it as a rule, or feeble mindedness. The imbecile who uses children or animals is neither immoral nor perverse and is almost universally a boy, the reason being chiefly because girls will have nothing to do with him, while the female imbecile has no such difficulty. In regard to the frequency of crimes in relation to imbecility and constitutional inferiority, I can give you little first hand information. Juvenile courts have been established in Boston for about three or four years and of the cases brought before this court, only those are referred to physicians for examination where the circumstances of the crime seem out of the ordinary to the court. Dr. Lane, who has examined these children for the courts tells me that of those sent to him for examination almost one-fourth are of such grade of imbecility as to require to be sent to institutions for such cases, and undoubtedly, as in backwardness in school children, a still larger proportion would show slighter grades of imbecility.

Rupprecht has recently analyzed the crimes of children in Munich for the year 1909. In a population of about 600,000, 51,000 were of the ages 12 to 18, and of the arrests 2,444 were for minor offenses as breaking public ordinances, and 456 were for breaking and entering, or greater offenses. The proportion of crime to population being 5 per cent. in youths and 11 per cent. among adults.

Of these arrests 307 were for begging, 700 for theft, 2 for cruelty to animals, 12 assaults, 12 for immoral actions, most of the offenders being feeble minded, 4 for rape, 5 for pederasty, 3 for supporting themselves upon the earnings of prostitutes. Arrests for drunkenness were rare, and almost exclusively in those near the age of eighteen years.

Of the approximately 2,500 arrests for minor offenses 1,258 were in young persons, 16 or older, who had left home and were supporting themselves; 411 were school children from 12

to 14; 384 apprentices; and 272 servant maids. The parents in 36 cases were of the upper classes; in 579, persons having their own business; in 322, in the class of skilled workmen, and in 1,454 they belonged to the laboring class. From about a thousand of the cases it was found that in 121 mental defects or real imbecility played a part, while hysteria, psychopathy, and lack of insight made up the remainder.

The remedies for these conditions which I have tried to sketch, I shall dwell upon only briefly. Those of slighter degree of mental defect, with training and under supervision, may prove fairly useful members of the community. Special classes in the schools such as have been formed in the Boston schools often give children of this type the necessary education. These classes require, however, to be under medical supervision and that of a physician trained in the examination for mental defect in children, in order to prevent them from being filled with unimprovable imbeciles. Probably very few of even the milder cases of imbecility are ever capable of fully managing their own lives, but require life long care, either of friends or guardians, or institutional care. Many of our criminals, both the feeble minded and psychopathic type, also, are incapable of self direction and a certain proportion of them, certainly the feeble minded, should be permanently segregated. Sterilization as a method of treatment solves only a part of the problem, that of inheritance of the abnormal psychical nature, and not at all the influence of the particular defective upon others, which has many and wide-spreading ramifications. Our aim as neurologists at the present time should be to arouse the community to the appreciation of the facts and to urge proper medical supervision of schools and courts, where these abnormal cases can be found and the needs of the individual case determined if possible. Special schools or special classes which will withdraw the constitutionally inferior from association with normal children in the schools are desirable for the sake, both of the abnormal and the normal child; and, for the psychopathic criminal as for the feeble minded, permanent guardianship of some sort in or outside of institutions is probably necessary.