

temporary or correctible causes. But those who have inherited mental weakness are lacking in mental and moral power. Only a small percentage of these are improvable. The greatest problem for the school in this respect is to take proper care of those who appear to be physically perfect but are really feeble-minded. There is no great difficulty in caring for the low grade imbeciles and idiots, for these can be easily segregated and prevented from propagating another generation like themselves. The high grade mental defectives, known as morons, present the most serious problem for both parents and teachers. Every school child who is retarded two or more years without evident reason should be suspected of being mentally defective to some extent.

The psychological clinics held during recent years have attracted the favourable attention of the educational world and have made many notable contributions to the scientific methods of dealing with defective children. It is only through the knowledge gained from such clinics that parents and teachers can hope to deal in an intelligent and effective way with the backward child. The psychological clinic marks a distinct advance in the modern attempt to solve the problems connected with the proper guidance and training of mental and moral defectives.

Public opinion in civilized countries is awakening to the needs of the mentally and physically defective, and is compelling the state to assume its responsibilities in caring for those who need its special protection. Legislation for the purpose of gathering into special institutions all confirmed mental defectives has already been passed by several progressive governments and is being considered by others. There is every probability that state registration of mentally defective children will become the policy of the future, and that custodial institutions for all who are not improvable will be maintained at the expense of the state. To those who are improvable and capable of benefiting by guidance and instruction is due the most intelligent and sympathetic direction that well-informed parents and teachers can bestow.