

and vice would have been obviated by a rational direction of the individual at a period when treatment was possible! Unfortunately much of our social service begins at the wrong moment and aims only at cure after the damage is done. Prevention should be the slogan of all social service workers.

When describing these girls as defective, possibly this point should be clearly stated. Ordinarily the term mental defective is applied to those who measure low in the scale of intelligence, and do not reach a mental age of twelve, although their chronological age is much greater.

Under this heading may be grouped the majority of the prostitutes examined, although others showed their defect more particularly in want of ability to realize their social obligations, and exhibited defects in character that were sufficiently clear to the investigators.

Take the girls, for example, who could do the Binet Simon tests up to twelve or thirteen, but whose failure even under advantageous circumstances, to recognize the most obvious moral obligations, clearly showed the defect in their organizations. The class called High Grade Morons are the most amiable and difficult form of all the defectives to manage, and possibly the greatest menace to the community, as they are so often attractive in appearance, and plausible, to the ordinary observer. The sentimentalist always objects to any methods devised to control these weaklings, the experienced social worker knows that until such individuals are placed under constant supervision they will provide an endless chain of vice and criminality and will form the distributing centres of venereal disease. A perusal of clinic histories makes this plain.

Here are a few typical histories taken almost at random and without attempt to specialize on spectacular cases. They might be described as "run of mine" types.

CASE I

Jennie J. Age 19. Scotch. Single. Left school when between 15 and 16, but failed to pass the entrance. Jennie is attractive in appearance, of pleasing manner, but does not show the faintest evidences of possessing a sense of moral responsibility. To the ordinary observer nothing unusual would be noticeable; the trained investigator would soon discover her defects, mental and moral, and the Binet-Simon tests showed that her mental age was less than twelve.

She first worked in a biscuit factory, where she found the girls of pretty loose type, and at once commenced a life of immorality and prostitution. Like many of her class she earned small wages, did the simplest kind of work, and went from factory to factory with persistent regularity.

She was in a knitting mill, a doll factory, a pickle factory, in a