

those whose mental ability corresponds to that of average normal children from seven to ten years of age are termed "morons". Idiots and imbeciles are great burdens and cause social difficulties of many sorts but they are seldom found in the schools. They are less of a menace in society than morons and those on the border line of normality. In every country where careful studies have been made it has been determined that mental defectives contribute out of all proportion to their numbers to such social problems as dependency, pauperism, delinquency, criminality, and prostitution, and the spread of disease. Approximately 25% of chronic offenders against the law are mentally deficient. But, if when young they had received education suited to their individual needs, they would in many cases have been capable of supporting themselves in decency under proper supervision. Experience has shown that the only way to secure the necessary training is to place subnormal children in a class or school by themselves under a teacher of natural aptitude who has had special preparation for the work.

Both normal and subnormal children make better progress apart. In the case of the former, teachers are not hampered by vain endeavours to bring defectives up to the standard of the class. On the other hand the subnormal, no longer humiliated and discouraged by a sense of unfitness, may in time become happy and useful citizens, able under supervision to perform many kinds of unskilled labour. The moral advantages are also great. Defectives are generally much older than other members of their classes and, because of a lack of the power of self-control, are often the source of serious evils.