

among other things, that the admissions to hospitals for insane contain a large proportion of young people, who have already reached the incurable stages of disease. Ordinarily, they will go from bad to worse, sinking into a condition of mental torpor that ranks them as ciphers, as far as the world is concerned. Under careful treatment a small percentage improve, and lead lives of limited usefulness, as long as preserved from over-strain, and a few are said to recover. I make the remark "said to recover" because my own experience has led me to believe that complete recovery is so rare that it can scarcely be said to occur. Now, what is dementia precox—in other words, precocious dementia? If we limit its definition carefully, we find that it is a form of mental disease appearing generally at the first developmental crisis, rapidly running a course culminating in dementia, as characterized by apathy, indifference, negativism, irrelevance and inability to make continued mental effort. These wrecks are the most striking evidences and proofs of what a bad heredity will do for those who are cursed with it, and who try to endure the strain imposed upon the organism by civilization. If it were the truth that as nature weeded out the weaklings, gradually, dementia precox was disappearing, there would be little reason for calling attention to the present state of affairs. Unfortunately, civilization and culture are not always under the control of the best of nature's laws, and certain conditions of society are decidedly artificial. We do not yet understand the best methods of brain development, nor have we learned to recognize all of the danger signals of over-strain.

The methods of making mental and physical analyses employed by the modern alienist are so exact, so painstaking, so plodding and so different from the delightful, "jump-at-conclusion" ways of many of his predecessors that it will not be long before he will be in a position to offer suggestions of immense value to the whole world. Perhaps we have too little patience with the so-called theoretical psychology, much of which is attractive, but not founded on fact; but, at all events, the day is not far distant when the theoretical psychologist will be forced to correlate his theories with the facts of psychiatry before he dare offer his wares to the admiring public. Experiences in abnormal psychology make plain the truths of the normal, and allow us to fix the standard, not for a class, but for the *individual*, something that the theorist nearly always overlooks.

It is here public school systems fail so frequently; they are constructed, as no doubt they must be, to a very great extent with regard to classes rather than individuals. Now to idealize on what public schools might be is seductive; but I am here merely to discuss, from my standpoint, a practical problem that must some time or another be faced.