THE PROBLEMS OF THE SUBNORMAL FAMILY

BY

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Thesis submitted to

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by

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THE PROBLEM OF THE SUBNORMAL PANILY

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- (a) Rooms for "problem" children with specially trained teaching staff.
- (b) Mechanical and manual training for those lacking mental capacity to do work of regular curriculum.
- (c) Organized and Supervised Play.

3. The Church.

- (a) Interpretation of the social role for the subnormal family.
- (b) Interpretation of the spiritual role.

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INTRODUCTION

The subnormal family presents the most appailing of all family problems. By "subnormal" we mean, (1) a family whose mental rating is low, i.e. anywhere from high grade moron to mentally defective; (2) a family whose moral standards are below normal, and who are delinquent; and (3), as a usual but not necessary corollary, a family subject to social disease, and (4), so improvident as to be a public charge. The subnormal family may not be composed of all these factors, but either factor one or two are to be found, and the third and fourth may be found. In some cases all four factors mentioned are present.

It will thus be evident that since this group is not of normal intelligence, the ordinary methods of approach are useless. The social worker, the legislator, and the educator must find some new method of approach to a problem that has been too long neglected, and too long placed in the category of the "unmentionables".

must study the subnormal family as to the effect it has on society. We must consider the causes that have produced this social phenomenon in modern society. Without a knowledge of these underlying causes, our approach will be largely hypothetical, but having seen the causes and their effects, it remains for us to consider remedies that at least mitigate, if not remove, the problem of the subnormal family from the midst of modern society.

I. THE PROBLEM PRESENTED

In order to see the problem in its true perspective, let us study the case of Weyburn, Sask., which has a population of approximately five thousand people. Of this population, there is a growing group of indigents who are entirely dependent upon charity for their support, and who have lived on city relief for several years. This group amounts to several hundred, and at first glance would seem out of all proportion to the population; but upon closer scrutiny, we can see that it is the direct result of a failure to cope with the problem of the subnormal family during the past twenty years.

In order to illustrate that. I have taken from their number, twelve immoral or nonmoral women. By immoral I mean common prostitutes, and by non-moral I mean women who are mental defectives, and have no knowledge of right or wrong, but who are used for immoral purposes by their husbands or others. From these twelve women, the charts which I have submitted show that there have come two hundred descendants, of whom one hundred and seventy-five are living. These twelve women had ninety-five children, and they in turn produced one hundred and five offspring.

The following table will show how this phenomenal increase has come about.

	:Children : from : Nother	Descend -	: hold	8:	No. Moral Delinquent		ated	Total :
No.1	9	10	: 1	<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	5	:	-	10
No'. 2	: : 9	9	: 1	:	-	:	;	8 :
No.3	: : 4	5	: 1	:	1	:	-	5 :
No.4	5	8	: 4	:	3	:	4	8 :
No.5	2	9	: 2	:	2	:	1	8
No.6	9	35	: 8	:	6	:	6	25
No.7	18	56	13	:	4	: :	- :	49
No.8	9	16	: 4	:	6	:	2	15
No.9	10	14	3	:	5	:	10	10
No.10	8	10	. 2	:	-	: :	-	10
No.11	8	16	3	:	2	:	9	16
No.12	4	11	: 4	<u>:</u>	-	<u>:</u>	2	11
	95	200	46	: :	34	<u>:</u>	34	175

(a) From the above study of these twelve cases, it will be seen that this group is mentally subnormal. Of the 175 who are living, only 34 graded normal. By that I mean that they were able to move from grade to grade at a moderate pace, even taking into consideration their natural hindrances of environment and physique. Many who did not finish Grade VIII, but who did fair work while in school, have been counted normal. This leaves 141 who would not be considered normal mentally, Of these, some are small children about whom it may be too early yet to make dogmatic predictions. But even this leaves a large proportion of individuals who have not even normal intelligence.

Because this class tend to intermarry, as I have attempted to show in the charts submitted, the second and third generations are nearly always worse than the first. The result is an ever increasing number of morons and imbeciles who continue to be a charge upon society.

(b) This group must also be considered subnormal physically. Aside from the malnutrition as shown by the many cases of ridkets, there are even more ominous indications. It would be diff ult to give exact statistics, but ten of the twelve charts submitted show venereal disease in some member of the family. The case of No. 4 is typical. This woman was horribly diseased, and as a result her whole family are suffering. The two youngest are suffering from arthritis. The daughter was compelled to leave schoolwhen the disease which she had contracted from her mother broke out in her tonsils.

This group tend to infect one another. The eldest son in No. 12 married the eldest daughter in No. 8. He is a mentally defective, but I have no reason to believe he was diseased. But his wife was and now he and the children are infected.

table it will be seen that from these women have come 34 moral delinquents. I have not counted children guilty of small crimes, or having ugly dispositions. I have included only those with a police sourt record, and those

whom we know to be illegal parents. Others among this number we may suspect of sexual license, and other crimes, but we are counting only those criminally convicted.

Thirty-four moral delinquents from 175 individuals, many of whom are only babies, and so may be potential delinquents, is a very alarming figure. It means that 20 to 25 percent of the offspring of these twelve women are already morally subnormal.

This does not include the generally low tone of morality among these people, which cannot be shown by statistics, but which is very low. The case of No. 3 is a good illustration. When the school nurse found that the daughter of the family was pregnant, she immediately took her home. The mother's only comment was "Come on in, Dearie, and don't cry. Mother will fix you up all right", and it was only the threat of exposure that prevented an abortion taking place. Since the child's birth about a year and a half ago, this girl has been in hospital for miscarriages, and has had to be sterilized for the protection of the community.

(d) Not only are these people mentally, physically and morally subnormal, but they present an additional problem by reason of their rapid growth. Twelve women producing 95 children means a birth rate of 7.9, and for total descendants, an average of 16.6 children per each one of the original twelve women. When we remember that the

see just how alarming the situation is. If this group should continue to be as prolific as in the past quarter of a century, we would have well over one thousand descendants from these twelve women in another twenty-five years. One thousand people, two-thirds of whom are mentally defective, and one-fifth morally delinquent, would create a problem of horrible magnititude. Surely the continued policy of allowing the subnormal family to bring into the world large numbers of individuals to fill our jails and mental institutions, and to live upon charity, is one of consummate folly.

II. THE EFFECTS OF THE SUBNORMAL FAMILY.

The effects of a large indigent class, of which 20% are moral delinquents, and an even larger percentage morans, cannot but be detrimental to the community.

1. Consider first the physical effects on the community of the subnormal family. As can be seen from a perusal of the twelve families recorded, many of them are diseased. From the records submitted, it will be seen that there are at least twelve women or girls who are living as prostitutes, and who are diseased. The Medical Health Officer reports that the eldest daughter of No. 6 is a constant source of infection to all wandering and subnormal men in the neighborhood. This may be considered true of the others, for the Medical Health Officer states that he is handling three times as many cases of venereal disease in proportion to

other ailments, as ten years ago. This leaves little doubt that this class are not only infecting one another, but also those with whom they come in contact. It is true, of course, that those infected are of a low moral order, but not always. Sometimes men from fairly good homes, but who are working in the city, are accosted by these women and are in due course infected. How many have been thus affected, it is impossible to say, but their number must be large, and the effects lasting and detrimental.

consider the mental effects of the subnormal family on the community. The fact that of the 175 living off-spring of the twelve women being studied, only 34 graded normal, means that a large percentage have not the mental capacity to attain even a public school education. Take the case of Frank______, son of No. 2, who is twenty years old, but cannot do Grade II work; or of Muriel, the granddaughter of No. 6, who at fifteen years of age could not do Grade II work. Most of these children are moved on from grade to grade when they have been two or three years in the same room, not because they can do the work, but to prevent them from becoming obstinate and unmanageable, and because they tend to become ring leaders among the smaller children. The law compels them to attend school, but they make little or no progress.

The result is a general slowing up of work in the room in which they are placed. It is only natural that the

least promising child sets the pace for the room; and in this case, the pace is that of the proverbial snail. There are three public schools in this city, in addition to the Collegiate. Most of the indigent class attend one of the public schools on the south side of the city. The result is that this school is always behind the other two. It is outclassed in matters of study, sports or decorum for not only does the subnormal child lower the average, but the average child does not do as good work in an atmosphere which is far from stimulating, and which fails to call forth his best efforts.

Hence a latge number of submormal children in the community cannot but have a detrimental effect on the mental standards and intelluctual attainments of the community.

3. The moral effects of the subnormal family are of a necessity pernicious. The group of juvenile delinquents found on pages 1, 5 and 9, formed a gang of shopbreakers and thieves who were frequently seen in juvenile court. Not only did they stimulate one another to lawbreaking, but it was found that they were influencing other boys who were neither delinquent nor subnormal. It was only when the gang was broken up by sending the ringledders to Industrial School, that their influence among other boys was halted. Even yet, those who remain, by their language, standard of morals and conduct, tend to a

lowering of the mount code among their schoolmates.

The same is true of the delinquents whose delinquency is of a sexual nature. Di the 34 moral delinguents. at least 28 are guilty of illegal parentage, or adortion. While most of this group affected mainly their own class! nevertheless some of tham were a source or temptation to schoolmates. The presence in any school or community of a group of sexually immoral girls is bound to make for a ldverling of moral standards. About the time that some of these girls became illegal mothers, the situation became sq common that much of the stigma seemed to have been removed, and the facts were accepted as a matter of course. The boys included in this class often had resort to foolid but potentially fine firls, who thus became contaminated. It is almost impossible to estimate the moral effect that a group like this can have on the younger generation who are susceptible to the moral codes of those about them.

4. Inother effect of the subnormal family is the cost of maintenance. It may be a mercenary view to take of the problem, yet in view of mounting taxation, it is of importance to the average citizen to know the effect of the subhormal family on his tax bill.

Almost all of the 175 individuals listed in the above table are kept by the city or by the state. This is not entirely due to the present adverse economic conditions.

Many of these families have been kept, at least partially,

by the city or by local charity organizations for many years. There are families like Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 9 who had to receive help from the city every winter, even in prosperous times. But now that unemployment is common, the whole group are living on relief, and have been for over two years.

The City of Weyburn spent \$3,900.00 for the month of January 1933 on the keeping of these families; and this was not the heaviest month of the year by any means. When we take into consideration the share of the Provincial and Federal Governments in this expenditure, we can get some idea of the tremendous cost involved.

In addition to the cost of keeping these families, is the cost of their medical attention. Most of this is torne by charitable organizations, the City, and the kindness of the medical and dental men in town. The cost of bringing most of their children into the world is torne by the city. The cost of dental work, eye correction and operations is borne by the citizens' relief organization.

In addition to the cost of the keeping of these families, is the expense of educating them. The School Board estimates that it costs \$70.00 per year for every child in Public School. Here are over a hundred children - involving an expense of over \$7000.00 - only a small percentage of whom can ever be expected to give to the state any adequate returns for the money expended. In the case

of No. 2, for instance, it costs \$560.00 per year to educate this family, to say nothing of keeping it.

and yet it is doubtful if any one member of it has derived any material benefit from attendance at school.

In addition to all this cost, is the expense of keeping those who are in Mental Hospitals, reformatories, and jails. Take the case of No. 1. Not only does the City keep, clothe and take care of the family, but it has to pay for the upkeep of the two boys sent to the Industrial School. The state is required to keep the eldest boy who is in jail; and society is called upon to bear the expense, through the Salvation Army Home, for the cost of bringing the illegitimate and imbecile child of the eldest daughter into the world. Or, take the case of No. 10. This woman has to be kept in a government owned Mental Hospital, and all of her children are being kept either in an Orphonage, or on city relief.

When we realize that this cost is mounting rather than decreasing, we get some idea of what the cost will be in the future. The above table shows that whereas there were twelve homes to begin with, there are now 46. And this does not take into account all the young married couples who are living with their parents, but only those who have set up separate households. This means that instead of having to provide for twelve indigent families, the City is called upon to provide for 46; instead of having the upkeep of 12 women, the city has now the cost of 175 additional individuals on its hands.

Not only are those on relief increasing the cost of their upkeep to the Government, but also those in institutions. Take for example the Case of No. 5b.

This woman was confined to the Mental Hospital as a mentally defective. She was allowed out on two occasions to live with her husband. During these tilmes she lived as a prostitute with his consent. Both of her children were born during visits home. Now she is again in the Mental Hospital, and her unforturate children are with her. Thus the initial cost to the taxpayer has been trebled in her case. This may explain why in this province both Mental Hospitals are crowded to capacity, and why the cost of caring for the mentally defective is steadily rising.

It would be difficult to predict the cost to society of these 175 individuals, but taking into account the money spent upon direct relief, the cost of education and medical care, and the expense of maintaining institutions for their mentally and morally defective, it must run into thousands of dollars, and this without any visible satisfactory returns for the money invested.

III. THE SUBNORMAL FAMILY AND CONTRIBUTING CAUSES.

If we are to deal with the subnormal family in an intelligent and scientific manner, we must first determinatine causes that have contributed to its present condition.

We will classify the causes into two groups. In The Rereditary

Causes, 2, The Environmental Causes.

- nost entirely for the subnormal family. Biology has since shown us that acquired characteristics such as moral delinquency and physical laziness etc. cannot be transmitted. But Biology has also shown that heredity is responsible for the neuromuscular set-up with which the child begins life. Thus the area of possibility in every child's life is set by the organism given to it by its parents. Hence the important part played by heredity as a cause for the subnormal family.
- (a) Let us first think of the physical cause with reference to heredity. The fact that out of the twelve families
 we have been studying, ten of them have venereal disease,
 rought in by one or both of the parents, is indicative of
 the large part physical disease plays in the subnormal family.
 The record shows that in nearly all of these families the
 Medical Health Officer has had to treat the children who
 are infected most frequently in the eyes. The case of
 No. 4 is most noteworthy. The entire family has been infected from childhood and at different times the children
 were compelled to leave school. The youngest child will
 not likely ever overcome the handicap, since he is almost
 deaf. Its needs little elaboration to see that the transmission of physical disease has played a large part in the
 creating of the subnormal family.

The same is true of mental defectiveness as a (b) contributing factor. Of the twelve couples started with, Nos. 2: 3, 7 and 10, one or both parents were, or had been, an Mental Institutions at some time, and in the case of No. 10, the mother of this woman had been mentally defective and had been confined to an institution. In the case of No. 1, the father and mother of this woman were first cousins, and she herself is a low grade moron. Here we have four patients from Mental Hospitals, one low grade moron, and seven who would not grade more than high grade morons. It is not to be wondered at that of the 175 living descendants of these twelve couples, there are only 34 who would grade. normal, and that there are already 6 who are confined in the Mental Hospital.

It is therefore evident that mental defect in eness, transmitted from parents to children, has played a large part in bringing about the conditions that produced the subnormal family.

- 2. The enviornmental causes are not so easily tabulated.
 But there can be little doubt that environment is an important factor in the subnormal family. We will deal with three environmental factors. 1, The Home Environment; 2, The Social Environment; 3. The Economic Environment.
- (a) The Home Environment It would be difficult to decide whether the subnormal home is the cause or the effect of the subnormal family. Certainly it is true that it is the sub-

normal family that gives rise to the undesirable home; hence it is an effect. But it is also true that the unfavorable home reacts detrimentally upon the family, and especially the children; hence it is also a cause.

One cannot visit the homes of the class listed in the above table without realizing that the home is no small factor in the subnormality found there. The writer has had some small experience in the slums of Creat Britain, and of Chicago: but for filth, squalor and unwholesome moral conditions, some of the homes Listed above have never been equalled in his experience. For instance, Case No. 1, where the oldest daughter had a child to her half-brother. atmosphere in this home could not be anything else but unsavory, to say nothing of the dirt and filth. Or Case No. 11, where two entire families are living in a three-room schok. Privacy is of course impossible, and despite the fact that the children are normal, there are unmistakable signs of moral degeneration, because of the home influence.

In the case of No. 8, it would be impossible to estimate the evil effects of the home. The mother is a prostitute, and as soon as the girls grow old enough they follow in her footsteps. It would be strange if they did not, they are exposed to the whole disgusting business so repeatedly that it has no stigma to them. The case of the boy, Bennie, in this family is a sad one. He is bright

and shows indications of rising acove his environment, but as he has reached puberty, there have been ominous signs that unsocial traits are being developed, and there can be little doubt that this is largely due to the home environment.

The same is true of Case No. 4. This man encouraged other men to visit his wife, and since she died he has encouraged the same attentions to his daughter. The only stipulation being that they keep him supplied with liquor. The home was the scene of frequent debauches and drunken orgies that must have left an indelible impression in the minds of the smaller children.

More cases might be cited, but these are sufficient, to show that most of these homes provide a very unhealthy environment, not only morally, but as to cleanliness of body and speech.

2. Social Environment.

fined to their own class, hence the social attitudes set up are largely unsocial. For the children there are school contacts, but even here that is limited, since most of them attend the same school, and the tendency is to associate with those of their own group. The older members of the family associate almost entinely with their own friends drawn from the indigent class. The result is that they tend to set up the mores for their own group, rather than to live by the moral standards of society.

On many questions of moral delinquency, they seem to have no feeling of shame, but on the contrary they feel that addiety has dealt hanshly with them by interfering in their private affairs. The girls who have given birth to illegitimate offspring have in the main refused to part with them, and seem to feel no compunction about the censure of society.

The reason for this may be due to the fact that they are somewhat avoided by other social groups in the city. This tends to force them among their own class for companionship. It is only natural that they will avoid those whose moral standards they have defied, and seek to associate with those who plade no stigma upon their conduct. But in seeking these associations they give rise to a group that sets up its own standard of morals and tends to soften if not entirely, to ameliorate, the ostracism of society.

3. The Economic Environment.

Here again cause and effect are closely interrelated. For white we recognize that it is because they
are subnormal that these people are economically destitute,
yet we must also recognize that economic want plays a large
part in aggravating and extending their subnormality.

Most of these men are unskilled laborers, whose work, even in good times, is uncertain and irregular. There are a few months in every year when there is no employment; and when an economic depression comes, they are the first to

become unemployed, and the last to be able to obtain employment. Even when they are working steadily their wages are small, and they are never far from the line of subsistence.

that no one will hire them. They are dirty and careless, and what makes the situation almost hopeless, they have no training whatsoever, even in the simplest housework. The children in some cases are bright enough, but they have so often been guilty of stealing that most people are reductant to hire them. One of the boys on page No. 1 of the charts submitted was found work by the writer on the premise to make good. The business man was satisfied with the work done, but found that the boy was taking money, and finally caught him in the act. It would be almost impossible to secure this boy a position in town at any future date.

Add to this the fact that these individuals have neither the foreseight nor shrewdness in the spending of the little money they do earn, and it will be evident that their economic status is generally low. Some of them buy radios on the instalment plan, and make a few payments, only to have the machine recovered. Others buy foodstuffs in a canned or prepared condition, instead of purchasing basic commodities and preparing their own food. It is not unusual to find them buying prepared breakfast foods, prepared mustard and olives. Money is often spent on showy clothes, rather than on service-

able and warm clothing.

More might be stated, but this is sufficient the show that the economic position of these people is unfavorable. The result of course is malnutrition on the part of the children. Note how many in the charts have rickets and are undernourished. Many of them need medical and dental care, and some need glasses. Parents and children are not properly clothed. The lack of any pocket money is largely responsible for the thefts committed by the boys listed as moral delinquents. How much of the prostitution can be traced to economic want, and how much to sensuality, is difficult to say, but there can be little doubt that powerty and want have played an important part in the physical and moral dounfall of the subnormal family.

IV. SUGGESTED REMEDIES FOR THE SUBNORMAL FAMILY.

In attempting to find a solution for the problem of the subnormal family, one is traversing an almost unexplored country. Social philosophers have propounded theories, but little or no progress seems to have been made as to the solution. The obstacle lies in the slowness with which public opinion can be made aware of the problem, and the difficulty of getting the state, the school and the church to act with any degree of uniformity. To the legislator these people represent votes; to the educationalist, "problem" children; and to the church, possible converts. To get all three of these institutions to see the problem, and the particular remedy which they can supply, is the task of the

social scientist.

Let us approach these suggested remedies to the problem of the subnormal family, keeping in mind the institutions under whose jurisdiction they would come. Since the State, the School and the Church have each a contribution to make, it would be better to donsider these remedies under the heading of the institution to whose let they would fall.

1. The Contribution of the State.

The problem of the subnormal family is chiefly one for the State. Since the State has the problem of legistating in the best interests of Society, and since we have spen that the subnormal family is an ever increasing menace physically, mentally and morally, to say nothing of a constantly rising expense, it is surely the duty of the State to meet this problem.

The suggested remedies which the State might effect are three in number; 1, The Improvement of Existing Marriage Laws; 2; Segregation; 3, Sterilization of Unfit, and Increased Knowledge of Birth Control.

(1) (a) The first suggestion to improve marriage laws in the interests of society, is to demand a medical certificate prior to the issuance of a marriage license. This certificate would certify as to mental and physical fitness. From the cases recorded, it can be seen that many individuals were married who were diseased, and in some cases mentally

defective. To the issuer of marriage licenses there is no option but to supply the required license, provided that both parties can slow that there is no legal barrier. To the Clergyman or Justice of the Peace performing the service, there is no alternative but to proceed, even though he may know that one or both are unfit to become procreators of human beings. Were a certificate required to certify as to mantal soundness and physical health, it would make impossible the marriage of couples like No. 5, where both daughters are mentally defective, and No. 8, where the eldest daughter was pregnant and diseased at the time of marriage, and has since infected her husband and children.

It will be argued in some quarters that this will work a hardship upon people desiring to marry, but surely the importance of future generations warrants some slight inconvenience. After all, marriage only occurs once in a lifetime for the average individual, and some precautions should not be looked upon as burdensome. When we consider that it is now almost impossible to take out a life insurance policy without a medical examination, surely an examination before entering a relationship pertaining to parenthood should not be too much to ask.

This would not, of course, prevent the alliance of those to whom the marriage bond means little. From the records of those under discussion, it will be seen that their marriage. In fact the writer performed the marriage service for Lawrence and his wife on Page No. 4. while their 6 months old child cried in an adjoining room. It may be argued that cases like these could not be curbed by demanding a certificate as to health, since they would simply form a union without any matrimonial sanction from speciety.

This may be granted, but the suggested medical certificate would at least make it impossible for those who are diseased from marrying a totally unsuspecting and imposent partner. On several occasions girls from this class have been married to men of normal intelligence and morals, and the results have been disastrous. By the requirement of a medical certificate, the physical condition of both parties would be revealed, and any contract emitered into after that would be done knowing the dire consequences.

The second improvement in existing marriage leglislation would be the requirement of seven days notice of
the intent to marry. This would prevent many of the
clandestane marriages that daily take place. The writer
has in mind a boy of 16 and a firl of 14 who went to a
neighboring town twelve milew away, and persuaded the
issuer of marriage livenses that they were of legal age.
They were married and went on tour for some six weeks.

Upon their return the problem had developed to the place where an annulment would only have aggravated the situation. As a result, a subnormal home was set up, and a boy and girl were parents long before maturity. Had they been required to post notice of intent to marry, their parents would, in all probability, have been informed of their intention, and a catastrophe would have been averted.

Many objections have been raised to this suggestion because of the inconvenience involved. Yet men are kept waiting one or two months before their application is accepted by a lodge or club. Surely no individual regards marriage so lightly that he would consider the advance notice of the event a hardship. The feelings and convenience of the individual should in this matter be subordinated to the good of the State. The prevention of marriage by adolescents, bigamy and ill-considered alliances is more important than the trouble of registering in advance, the intention to marry.

Here again we would only tough those who were willing to abide by the law, and could not affect those who entered into illicit unions, but at least it would set as a check and prevent much of the deception that is practiced upon unsuspecting individuals.

(2) As has been seen, the suggested amendments to marriage legislation would only act as a check. We must deal more

directly with the subnormal family. To this end segregation has been suggested. This word has come to be
interpreted in so many ways, and to be used in so diverse
theories, that it might be well to explain exactly what
is meant.

(a) Social Segregation.

By segregation we mean the locating of this class in a community by themselves, where the physical, mental and moral effects listed above would no longer affect the community. Society does not hesitable to segregate driminals, lepers or any others that threaten the well-being of society. There can be little doubt that this group exercise an influence that is detrimental and which could best be removed by segregating them.

Another advantage of such segregation would be that they would become less of a public burden. Most of the men listed above are good workers, but poor managers. The writer has heard farmers say, for instance, that the fathers in homes Nos 3 and 4 can do more work than any four men in the neighborhood. Yet these men have never been able to earn enough to support their families, which have consequently become a charge on the community. They have tried farming, draying and contracting, all to no avail. They possess the industry, but lack the initiative to succeed, where decisions of any importance have to be made.

Were those families placed on a state farm, or in a

colony where decisions could be made for them by a competent supervisor, and where their buying could be done for them, there is no reason why they could not become self-supporting. With proper supervision the women could become better housewives and better managers of the family finance. Even if the colony had to be subsidized it doubt not cost as much as it does now to keep all 46 households on city relief.

(b) Segregation of the Sexes.

The suggestion has been made that in such a colony the sexes should be separated, in order to prevent the reproduction of mentally and physically unfit children. This would be very difficult to enforce, and would be an unnatural mode of life. It should only he tried if the next suggestion were rejected, namely, sterilization.

fective has long been advocated, but only recently has it seeped into the public consciousness. From the day when Plato wrote his Republic to the present, eugenists have advanced various solutions to the problem of the defective, but sterilization seems to meet the requirements of the situation most aptly. For while it gives protection to society, yet it deprives the defective of nothing except the privilege of bringing into the world children who would only be a care to themselves and a charge to society.

Some have objected to sterilization on the grounds that it is depriving human beings of an inalienable right. But medical science declares that it is possible to be sterilized and yet have sexual intercourse. In the main this is all the defective asks. Among them the parental instinct is not paramount, but is entirely subordinated to the sex urge. Thus sterilization would deprive them of nothing that they value very highly, and would make it impossible for them to reproduce those whose presence could contribute little to the general well-being of society.

Had sterilization been in effect, it would mean that the families No. 5 and No. 10 would not now be in existence. Both of these women were incarcerated in the Mental Hospital prior to their marriage, and had they been sterilized at that time, it would have relieved society of some of the burden they are now carrying.

The objection is raised that sterilization might be abused. This is granted. There are possibilities of abuse in any norward step. But the ethics of the medical profession have always been of a very high order, and we have entrusted to them many duties just as delicate and as capable of misuse. The matter would have to be handled carefully. Only those mentally defective and those incurably diseased should be sterilized. Many subnormal families whose intelligence is not of a high order are capable of raising useful citizens. But society should have some voice in the charges

and responsibilities it will assume, not only dow, but in the generations to come.

Sterilization would apply only to the defective, and not to the subnormals. Yet the question of limiting the family of the subnormal is of paramount importance, since large families are undoubtedly one of the causes of their extreme poverty. This might be done by a discreet dissemination of contraceptive knowledge, that would enable this class to limit their families to a size commensurate with their economic and social status. With fewer children there is little doubt that they dould give their families greater opportunities for advancement.

It has been argued that this would tend to increased immorality. But we might point out that a lack of such knowledge has not prevented immorality. Also, that most immoral persons are in possession of this information, while those who need it remain in ignorance. The remarkable thing about modern society is that while those economically capable of rearing children practice birth control, those in a state of poverty are deprived of the necessary information.

Leglislation might be passed giving to family doctors the right to impart the necessary data when the family had reached a set figure. This would prevent the raising of families of sixteen and eighteen by parents unable to properly clothe or feed them.

2. Contribution of the School.

If the problem of the subnormal family is to be solved, it will have to be largely done among the grow-ling children who are impressionable enough to develop new social attitudes. It is here that the school can make a lasting contribution to the solution of the problem.

(1) The first suggestion is that of placing all the subnormal children together under the care of a teacher specially trained in management of "problem" children.

Experiments have been made in a small way with some of the children recorded here. It was found not only that these children aid their best work when in an environment of equal ability, but that they did not hold brighter children back by keeping them in an enervating atmosphere.

The whole tendency is for the brighter pupils to monopolize the teacher's attention. The result is that the backward pupil is florgotten. The teacher tends to think the child obstinate and ungovernable when the pupil is really just desperately behind the rest of the class. With the class pohsisting entirely of "problem" children, the teacher could regulate the pace to the capacity of the children. The teacher would be able to take into consideration the capacity for work each child possessed, and regulate her program accordingly. This,

it has been found, has given the subnormal child encouragement and enabled him to absorb the work at a pace for which his mentality is fitted.

(2) The second suggestion as to what contribution the school can make to the problem of the subnormal family. is to prepare a curriculum that will be in keeping with the mentality of the subnormal child, and will fit him for life. Wost of these children find it difficult to learn the ordinary subjects on the curriculum, but they are often capable of acquiring considerable skill in mechanical tasks. This might be illustrated by the fact that the school nurse for the city has formed a class from amongst these subnormal girls and women. They could never be taught arithmetic or geography, but some of them show remarkable dexterity at knitting and sewing. same is true of the boys and men. Some of them could easily be taught manual training and they show a remarkatle interest in any work that they can do with their hands.

After all, it is useless to expect children without the mental capacity to assimilate studies meant for a normal, healthy child. And if the subnormal child cannot do this work, at least when it becomes more complicated, surely something, that he could learn would be of value to him. Most of the children in this group will never aspire to university work, or even high school graduation.

But they will set up homes, and if the school could help them to be better housewives and more useful citizens, a great contribution would be made.

(3) The third suggestion for the school to help the subnormal family is the development of organized and supervised play. The most noteworthy lack among the children of these families is their inability to play. The writer was given a group of eight of these boys who are listed above as moral dellinquents, just after they liad been released on probation from the juvenile court. In joining them into a group, the question was asked, "What can you do?" Well, they could fight, run or climb, but they couldn't play games. The team work required in games was beyond them. They knew nothing of that group loyalty, that is the bond binding the hearts of most normal boys together. They had none of that dread of "telling tales" so characterisitic of a healthy boy. Whenever they had committed a crime it was only necessary to corner one, and he would tell on all the rest in the hope of being released.

This is largely due to the fact that playground sport is unorganized. The athletic boy is selected to represent the school at field meets, and on school teams. He competes for cups and medals, but the undernourished and under-privileged boy who is too awkward and slow to understand the rules of the game, is left out of the sports

altogether. Yet he is the very one who needs the play most.

If play were organized and supervised, every child would be playing on some team, and finding an outlet for their superfluous energy. An instructor could lay the emphasis on the slow awkward boy instead of the promising athlete. The result would be that these children would develop a normal play life which they now lack. This might be done by organizing the children on the playground into groups composed of those of equal or marky equal ability. In this way the Boy or girl would not be hopelessly outclassed, and at the same time there would be the incentive to graduate from one group to another.

3. The Continubiton of the Church.

Perhaps there is no institution about whose contribute so much to the regeneration of the subnormal family, as the church. Its chief function is to help these people to interpret their role in society, in the home, and in the Kingdom of God. Most of these families have grown up with an unsocial attitude. As long as they can remember they have lived on charity, been looked upon as moral lepers, and shunned as undesirable company. To give to these people a feeling of self respect and to help them to visualize the role they might play in the building of a finer world, is a task of colossal magnitude.

(1) The church must first help them to interpret their social noise. They want to be like other people, but they don't know how. The other women of the city have teas - they would like to have teas. The business men form clubs - then these men would like to form a club. They imitate others because they want to be like others.

Here is the task of the church; to find an outlet for their social desires. To help them to play their parts as parents, as children, as citizens, and as human beings. They do not know how to go about it, but they need only the suggestion. Life for many of them is empty and monotonous. They have that instinctive desire for social approval and recognition so characteristic of all human beings. This the church could do by helping them to build their social life around its human fellowship. By boys' and girls' groups, by having a place for women to gather and hearn the useful and of housekeeping, and giving to the men a centre of interest and a place where they are in esteem, the church could help these people to make social contacts and build up social selves that would become realities.

Dr. W. I. Thomas has pointed out that affection and recognition are two essentials to the development of a normal life. These are two of the things that the church can supply. By her great doctrine of Brotherhood, the Church can call men into a new relationship of affection, and by

her democratic spirit of equality, she can give to these socially repressed individuals the opportunity for social expression and recognition.

pret their spiritual role. Many of them have fallen low in the social scale, but no lower than society has made them conscious of having fallen. Their sense of worth has been impaired. The church has the task of helping them to find their status in the Kingdom of God. They need to learn what the Fourth Evangelish meant when he said. "To them gave He power to become Sons of God".

It is because the Church has power to help men into a new relationship that her contribution is so important. Nothing can lift these people faster than their own evaluation of themselves. Once they have re-evaluated themselves in the light of the Kingdom of God, other reforms will follow naturally. But until they have developed sufficient self-respect to care, there is little that can be done for them. Hence the Church has the opportunity of coming to this class with a message of hope and deliverance that "If any man be in Chr st Jesus, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new."

There may be a tendency to feel that this class lack the capacity to appropriate the Church's doctrine of God's Divine Fatherhood. At times, one might be tempted to think that religion has no place in their social and moral uplift,

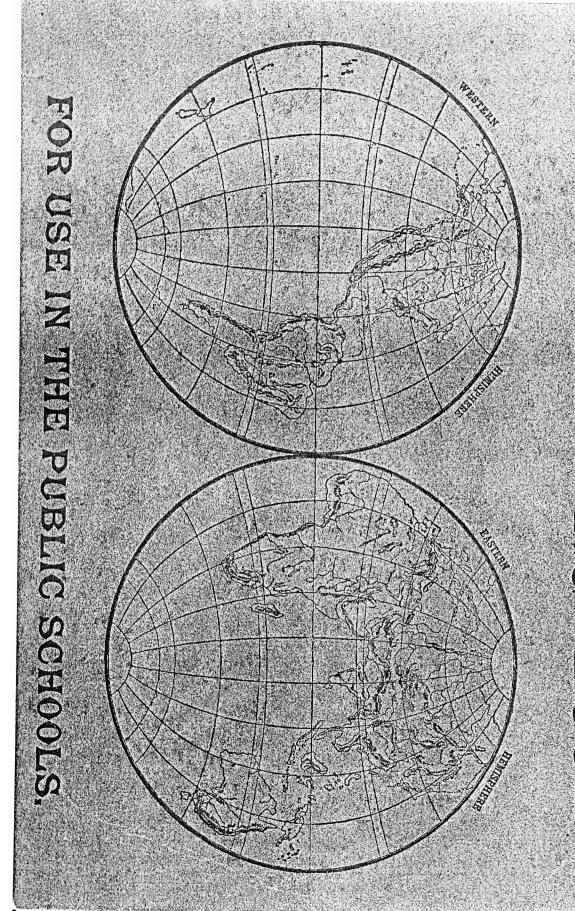
It is to this same transforming power that the Church must look if she would lift the subnormal family. When education and leglislation have failed, there is still One who can take the broken sarthenware from life's garbage heaps and make them vessels of honor in his temple of love. If the Church would play its part in the salvaging of these social outcasts, it must bring to the problem its belief in the regenerating power of the Christ, the "expulsive force of a new affection" and the assurance that "He maketh all things new".

To these three great institutions is given the task of solving the problem of the subnormal family.

The few remedies suggested here are fragmentary and in-

adequate. But if we shall at least come to recognize the problem and to seek its solution, there is hope. The problem cannot be avoided. It is here. Upon the degree to which we respond to this problem will depend the permanence of our civilization.

(. Nouglas (Tomy) Tiple page



DRAWING BOOK

FAMLY RECORDS

FOR THESIS ON

THE PROBLEM OF THE SUBHORMAL

FAMILY

BY TO DOUGLAS WEYBURN SUSK

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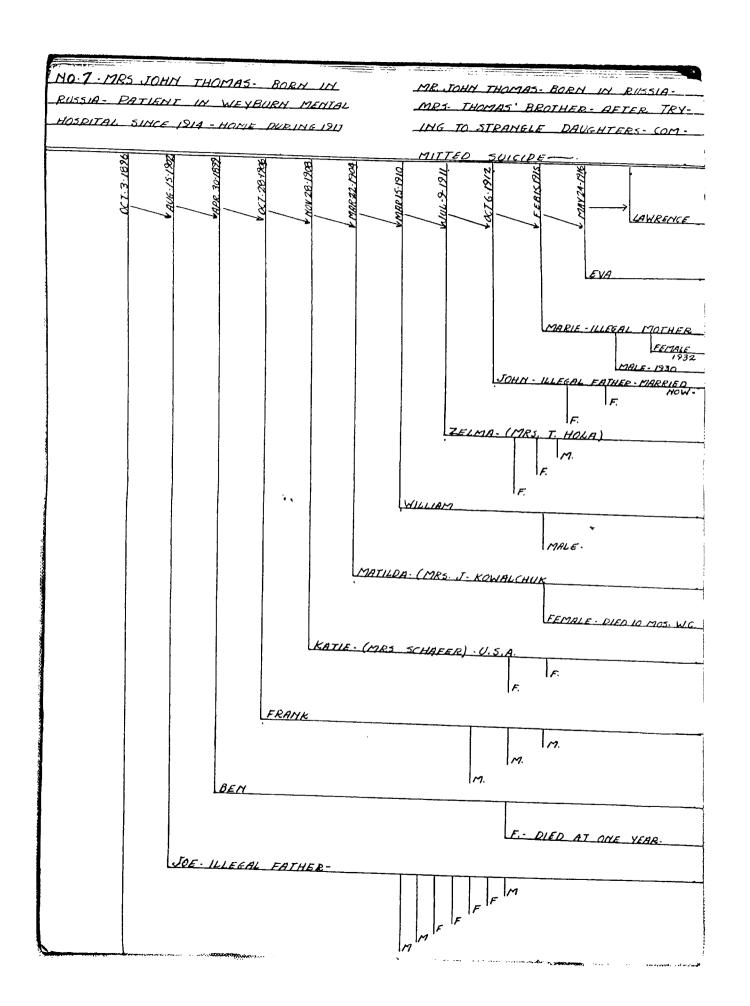
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				FIRE		
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]	MARTHA- BELOW	OVERAGE - DREADE	UL HOUSEKEEPE	R. MARRIED ~	
					FEMALE - 15 YRS.	
		' 6 4		MALE-5-YRS.		
WILLIE: 10 YES BACK WARD					•	
CHAS DISEA	- MARRIED JOHAN	MA LOWE . (SEE 8).	MUCH BELOW AVER	AGE SERVED OU	ERSEAS VEHEREAL	
JAFF	CTION OF			72	KOLAS VENEREDI.	
	DER- PROMISCUOUS			87		
	7257		ZZ	77.	;	
	<i>(£)</i>		9	GLEN.	MOT A SHOREMSTEIN	
	207		787			
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			//www.com // // // // // // // // // // // // //			
			CHAIRING & YR	S. SUBHORMAL -		
					` ;	
					•	
	L	MBRIE. NOT A SH	OREMSTEIN - (SEE	Na. 8)		
NO. OF CHILDREN	107770	FAMILIES SET	NO.	NO. RATED		
	DESCENDANTS	UP	DELINQUENT	NORMAL	LIVING -	
A	11	4				
4	11	4		2	17	
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