

**7. Mental Deficiency.**

*A Contribution to the Genetic Study of Mental Deficiency.* (Brit. Med. Journ., Jan. 6, 1934.) Penrose, L. S.

Records the results of the union of a brother and sister. The brother, of originally low mentality, is now an inmate of a mental hospital, suffering from general paralysis. The sister has been certified as feeble-minded, her I.Q. being between 50 and 60. There are two surviving children, both males, æt. 17 and 7. The elder son is considered to be definitely above average intelligence, and has earned his living continuously since leaving school. The younger child is of about average intelligence for his age. Although, from the eugenic point of view, it would be hardly possible to imagine worse conditions, the children appear to be normal, both on the standards of behaviour and of scholastic ability. The parentage of the children was confirmed by the results of blood-grouping tests. The family history gives no support to the gloomy views often expressed as regards the influence of heredity in the production of mental deficiency. It is suggested that there may be rare recessive genes which increase mental ability.

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