

secondary cases resembled a random sample from the general population. Within the group of defectives there was a negative relationship between I.Q. and paternal occupational status.

L. S. PENROSE.

*On the Frequency of Occurrence of so-called " Physiological Dullness " in the Families of Defective and Normal School-children [Über die Häufigkeit des Vorkommens der sogenannten " physiologischen Dummheit " in Familien von schwach-sinnigen und normalen Schülern]. (Allg. Zeits. für Psychiat., vol. civ, p. 347, 1936.) Juda, A.*

Physiology is the natural history of the body and the study of the behaviour and appearances of the healthy organism ; thus, the term " physiological dullness " could be used, in loose terminology, to describe that grade of inferior talent which is nevertheless compatible with life in the normal community.

After investigating a number of cases of mental inferiority which lie between the normal and the defective grades, the writer comes to the conclusion that, for purposes of studying heredity of the weak-minded, families of every grade must be included.

L. S. PENROSE.

*Investigation of Married Defectives in the City of Utrecht [Onderzoek naar gehuwde zwakzinnigen in de gemeente Utrecht]. (Mensch en Maatschappij, vol. xii, No. 6, p. 416, Nov., 1936.) Visser, F.*

In a comparative study of 204 feeble-minded males and 88 feeble-minded females with normal groups of the same sizes, special attention is paid to the problem of fertility. The ages of the subjects ranged from 25 to 40 years. Of the defectives, 32.5% were married and 64.4% of the control group. In one instance a male defective married a female defective. 62 defectives had altogether 99 children, i.e., 1.60 per family, whereas 103 normals had 168 children, i.e., 1.64 per family. Among the offspring of the feeble-minded, only 5 of the 38 who had reached school age were defective. The writer also discusses the relationship of mental deficiency to unemployment.

L. S. PENROSE.

*Fertility and Hereditary Mental Defect [Die Fruchtbarkeit der erblich Schwach-sinnigen]. (Schweizer Arch. für Neur. u. Psychiat., vol. xxxvii, No. 2, p. 229, 1936.) Brugger, C.*

An investigation is described, the main object of which was to compare the sizes of sibships of children of different intelligence grades. For this purpose the families of pupils at a special school were studied and compared with families of children in an ordinary school. The investigation of special school-children was confined to those whose mental defect was considered to be hereditary : these formed a group of 175 males and 168 females. There were 752 normal school-children, and these were divided into good, average and poor scholars. After making allowances for differences in ages of the children and of their parents, it is found that the sibships in which defectives occur are larger than sibships selected by the presence of at least one normal child. The sibships of the special school-children were, in fact, half as large again as those of superior pupils.

The writer also showed that twice as many children die before the age of 10 in the families of the special school-children as in the families of the ordinary school-children. The social class of the parents of special school-children was found to be definitely lower than that of the parents of normal children. A similar difference was to be found between parents of poor and good scholars.

The results of the investigation are said to indicate that, unless steps are taken, the mentally defective will become definitely more frequent in the course of time. Sterilization of all the mentally abnormal is most strongly urged.

L. S. PENROSE.