

Report Cure for Mongoloid Idiots

Psychiatry

Mongoloid idiots—those baffling cases of defective children that look like flat-faced oriental dolls—may be reclaimed from their smiling, contented state of idiocy and in some cases they may even reach practically normal intelligence. This was the encouraging report made by Dr. Walter Timme, of New York, before the American Association for the Study of the Feeble-minded.

The cause of Mongolism and how to treat it are still uncertain, though it is generally recognized as a gland disorder. Dr. Timme described his theory, which traces many of the symptoms of Mongolism to faulty development or lack of development of the fore section of the pituitary gland. This gland is located at the

base of the brain and its secretions enter both the blood and the cerebrospinal fluid.

Working on this theory, Dr. Timme stated that he has been feeding Mongoloid patients pituitary substances, both of the whole gland and particularly of the fore lobe of the gland. Hypodermic injections of the gland solution have also been given and in addition the patients have been given the usual thyroid treatment.

“As a result of ten years of this work, I have brought many of my Mongoloid patients to much higher levels than we have heretofore been able to do,” he said.

Some of these children, who had started in life with the prospect of remaining idiots, unable to dress

themselves, talk properly, or even eat like normal children, learned to do arithmetic up to multiplication by three or more figures and long division. They also learned to write letters and do oral arithmetic, which is remarkable achievement for these cases.

One of the patients, described by Dr. Timme, has attained an Intelligence Quotient of 90, which brings this child up to average intelligence.

Not all of the children treated have attained this degree of improvement, but Dr. Timme declared that “we have with these means accomplished more than by any previously known treatment, so far as I am aware.”

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Chimpanzees Serve Science

Zoology

Two of the few chimpanzees in captivity are now resident at the Johns Hopkins Medical School where they are expected to contribute to science important information on the comparative growth rates of man and his animal relatives.

Under the direction of Dr. Adolph H. Schultz, associate professor of physical anthropology at Johns Hopkins and research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, measurements of the two chimps will be made regularly. Their rate of growth will be compared with that of children of comparable age.

The female chimpanzee, called Evo, short for evolution, has just arrived here but the male has been here for six months.

So far they are a very happy couple, but Dr. Schultz said today that theirs is a true chimpanionate marriage for if they quarrel too much he will send Evo back home.

The dwelling cage for the couple has all the modern improvements, including ultra-violet rays and bathtub to keep them healthy and happy.

Thanks to the ultra-violet rays, the male chimpanzee is now twelve pounds heavier than when he arrived six months ago, his hair is thicker and his body better developed. Evo's last home was a small dark box. She is small and thin and her fur coat is shabby. But a month's basking in the artificial sun rays is expected to improve her health markedly.

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Judge Should Know Prisoner

Criminology

A judge should not pass sentence upon a prisoner until he has before him the facts about the prisoner's early life, home background, and past conduct, and also a psychiatrist's report as to the prisoner's intelligence, mental stability and sense of responsibility. This was the opinion expressed by Dr. Sanger Brown, 2d, deputy commissioner of mental hygiene of New York State, in an address before the American Association for the Study of the Feeble-minded.

When the judge has this information before him, he should then pronounce sentence, not specifically for the offense which brought the case into court, but in consideration of the past history and past conduct of the prisoner, Dr. Brown declared.

Not all criminals are insane or

feeble-minded, but every criminal should be studied by a psychiatrist, the speaker said. Certain chronic offenders of psychopathic type should be detained, perhaps for life, in order to protect society against them, he said; and prisoners should be released on probation or parole only after mental examination and under a psychiatrist's direction.

The emotional attitude of the public and of officials adds to the complexity of the crime problem, Dr. Brown said, but in time the facts will be understood sufficiently so that reasonable methods of dealing with lawbreakers can be adopted.

“It will then be possible to do justice to society and to the criminal also,” he stated.

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Oils for Insulation

Physics

Scientific research on oil is concerned not merely with its uses as lubricant and fuel but with its less known but almost equally important utilization in the insulation of electric wires. Oil is one of the best insulators known, but not all oils are equally good in this respect, according to T. N. Riley and T. R. Scott of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in London.

High-voltage cable insulation usually consists in part of layers of oiled

paper. In handling, the layers of paper must slide freely over each other, and to this end the insulating oil must also be a good lubricant. The oil must also be a good conductor of heat, so that the cable may remain cool even when it is carrying a heavy load of current. Finally, the formation of “gas” pockets between the layers must be avoided, for these spaces would permit brush discharges to take place and set the cable afire.

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