



WHAT PRICE KNOWLEDGE?

In ages of the past those who sought it—found it

But it was often expensive and limited to a few

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The Menace of America

Psychology

AN ANONYMOUS WRITER, in *The Future of America* (Harper's Magazine, April, 1928):

The menace of low mentality is perhaps the greatest danger that confronts any nation or civilization, but it is a vastly greater danger in a democracy than in an autocracy. It is, moreover, an insidious danger; for as long as intelligent leaders are in command it is not visible, but it is always present and may at any time lead to disastrous consequences. The Army Mental Tests, which have been lecried but never disproved, as well as the records of our public schools show an alarming degree of low mentality in this country. In the Army Mental Tests more than twice as many were found to be of inferior mentality as were in the superior grades. It is estimated that there are about two million mental defectives in the United States who need institutional care, about five millions who have been mentally unable to get through the grade schools, and about twenty-five millions unable to get through high school. The ultimate standing and success of any popular government must depend upon the intelligence of its citizens. Hitherto we have assumed that intelligence depends upon education and that general compulsory education would solve this problem. But, alas, we now find that millions of our population are incapable of education beyond the elementary grades. In spite of the fact that we are spending more public funds on education than any other nation on earth, there is good evidence that the average intelligence of our people has been declining for the past twenty-five years at least.

Science News-Letter, June 30, 1928

The effect of moving pictures upon the school records, deportment, and emotional stability of children is being investigated in California.

The English sparrow population of this country has decreased greatly in recent years.

An alabaster model of the beautiful Taj Mahal of India has been presented to the Field Museum of Natural History.

The peak of railroad construction in this country was reached in 1902, when more than 6,000 miles of new road were built.