

The individual of low mental test is especially suited to take over many of the mechanical operations of modern industry. In monotonous and repetitive tasks, often excessively distasteful to workmen of higher caliber, he is of unique value.

The new medical outlook holds that only the vicious ten per cent. and the intellectually lowest types should be segregated. Many of the others should be given institutional training according to their various capacities and taught simple trades. Depending on their personality and ability for adjustment to environment, they should be returned to their communities when they can go to work under such supervision as individual cases require.

Surgical sterilization is not a solution for the problem this class presents, according to Dr. Pratt. It is impracticable to administer it with justice, and if administered to all would bring serious attendant evils in its wake. The knowledge that half the mentally deficient are not hereditary cases, as well as the evidence of their potential usefulness, has lessened the fear of them as a social menace until sterilization no longer seems necessary or advisable when its numerous drawbacks are considered.

BLOOD TESTS FOR WHOOPING COUGH

The newest way of attacking whooping cough is by blood analysis.

Dr. C. F. Powers of the Yale Medical School has ascertained by chemical examination that the calcium content of the blood of patients suffering from severe cases of whooping cough is very low. This he remedies by administering calcium chloride. He also advocates applications of radiant energy or X-rays for what he calls the electrical hyperirritability of the nerves or convulsions. These are measures for bad cases that are complicated by a previous condition of rickets but even for children with the more moderate form of the disease without complications, Dr. Powers recommends X-rays.

Ether is occasionally resorted to to quiet the more violent paroxysms while for all degrees of whooping cough the best all round remedy is codliver oil because it helps build up against the condition of malnutrition that often persists till long after the last final whoop.

Dr. J. C. Regan and Dr. A. V. Tolstouhov of Brooklyn have found in making chemical analyses of the blood of whooping cough patients that the hydrogen ion concentration, that is, the acidity of the blood, is greatly lessened in proportion to the severity of the disease. They also noted a considerable decrease in the amount of phosphorous. Just what use can be made of the knowledge of these interesting changes is not yet determined.

Physicians who specialize in the diseases of children use a blood test in diagnosing doubtful cases. It consists of counting the number of white blood cells which increase greatly if whooping cough is really present. It is not certain, but is often of great assistance when considered in connection with other symptoms, for it is very important to keep even the mild cases isolated so that they may not infect other children.
