

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY
OF THE INTELLIGENCE
OF DELINQUENT GIRLS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649437122

A Comparative Study of the Intelligence of Delinquent Girls by Augusta F. Bronner

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**BY
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**TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, No. 68**

**PUBLISHED BY
Teachers College, Columbia University
NEW YORK CITY
1914**

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no 68
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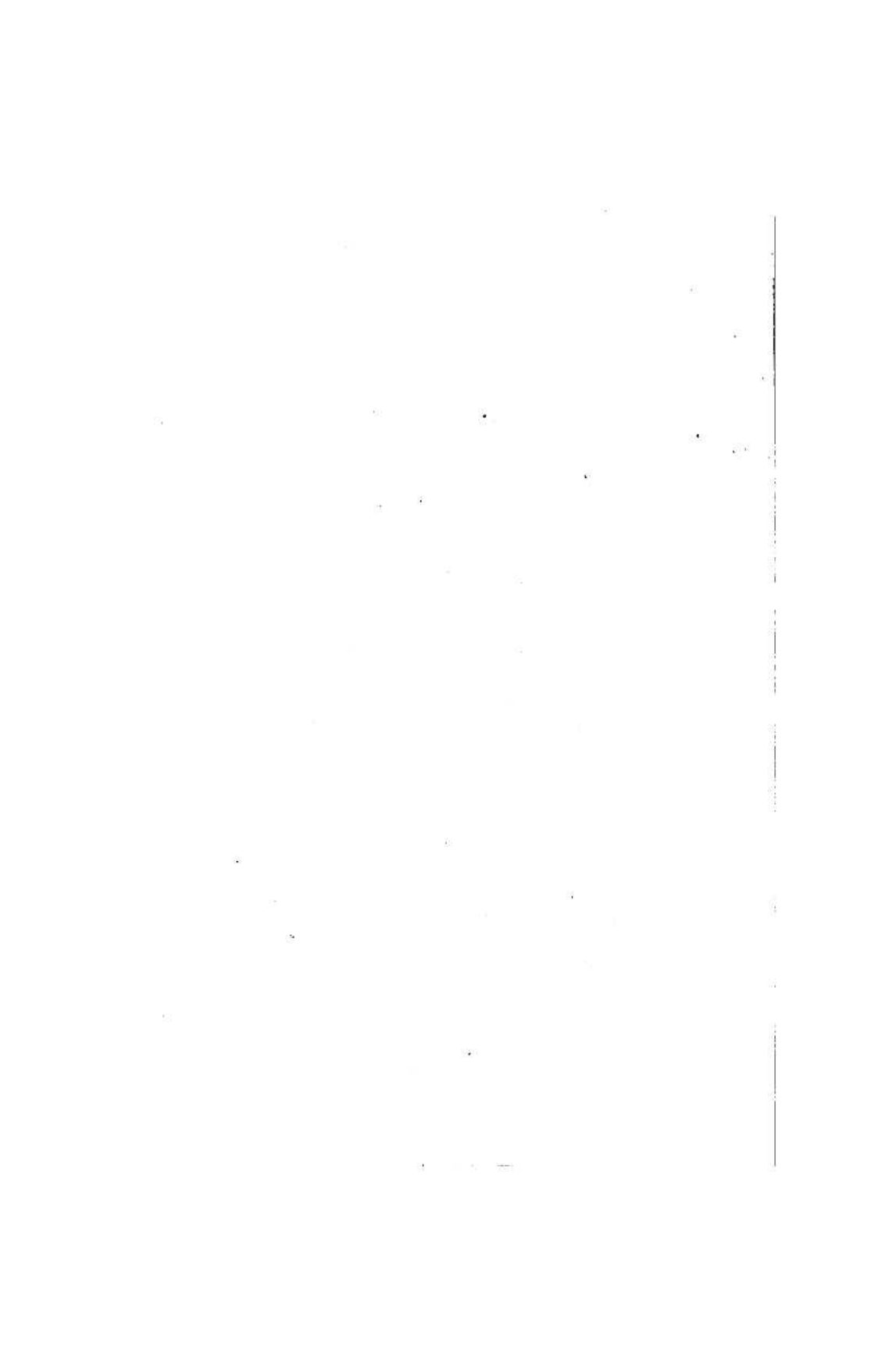
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

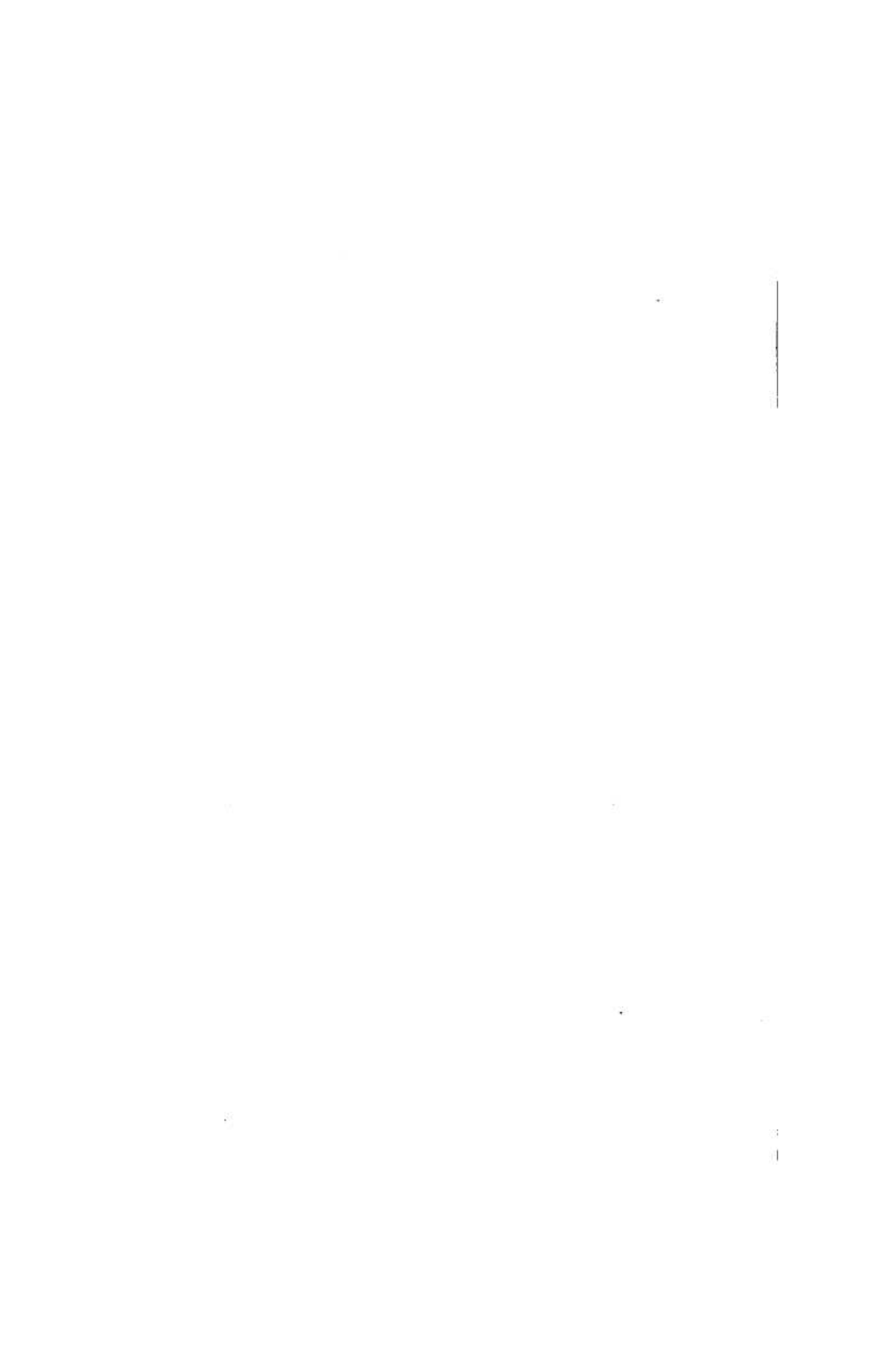
The writer wishes to acknowledge her indebtedness to Miss Babcock, Director of the Harlem Branch of the Y. W. C. A.; to Mr. Robbins Gilman, of the University Settlement; to Miss Maud Miner, Secretary of the New York Probation Association, and her assistants; to Mr. Frederick Ellis, of the New York Neurological Institute; to Professor H. L. Hollingworth, of Barnard College; all of whom made it possible to obtain the subjects for this study. And most of all is indebtedness acknowledged to Professor E. L. Thorndike, of Teachers College, for suggestions in regard to tests and methods of scoring, indeed, for valuable help and encouragement throughout the work.

A. F. B.



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PART I

1. THE PROBLEM

The question of the delinquent girl is one that has aroused much interest of late. Varied are the explanations that have been given as to the causes that have led to the beginning of her career. Vice Commissions have attempted to investigate the economic and social conditions that are involved. In several places, notably at the Laboratory for Social Hygiene, Bedford Hills, and in Chicago, under the direction of Dr. William Healy, the mental status is being delved into as well. In the latter instance, the delinquent is being studied from every possible viewpoint—mental and physical, as well as environmental and social. These latter investigations tend to show that the problem is no simple one; there is no one ever-present and only cause, but a number of inter-related factors whose relative importance varies with each individual case.

However, apart from those who are working experimentally and scientifically, we find many social workers and, indeed, many of the general public who have expressed their views on the subject. Very many of these have stated it as their opinion that delinquency is due very largely to the fact that the offenders are not sufficiently intelligent to care for themselves without running into difficulties, in fact that the large majority are sub-normal or feeble minded.

Whether every feeble-minded girl is a potential offender, is easily led, the tool of a stronger-minded, more gifted person, is one question. But it is an entirely different question from the one we have in mind, namely, whether all social and moral offenders are mentally ill or mentally unfit.

Are these offenders so lacking in capacity that they are unable to earn a livelihood in legitimate vocations? Is it because they