

**THE FEEBLE MINDED IN NEW
YORK: A REPORT PREPARED
FOR THE PUBLIC EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK**

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The Feeble Minded in New York: A Report Prepared for the Public Education Association of New York by Anne Moore

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ANNE MOORE

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By

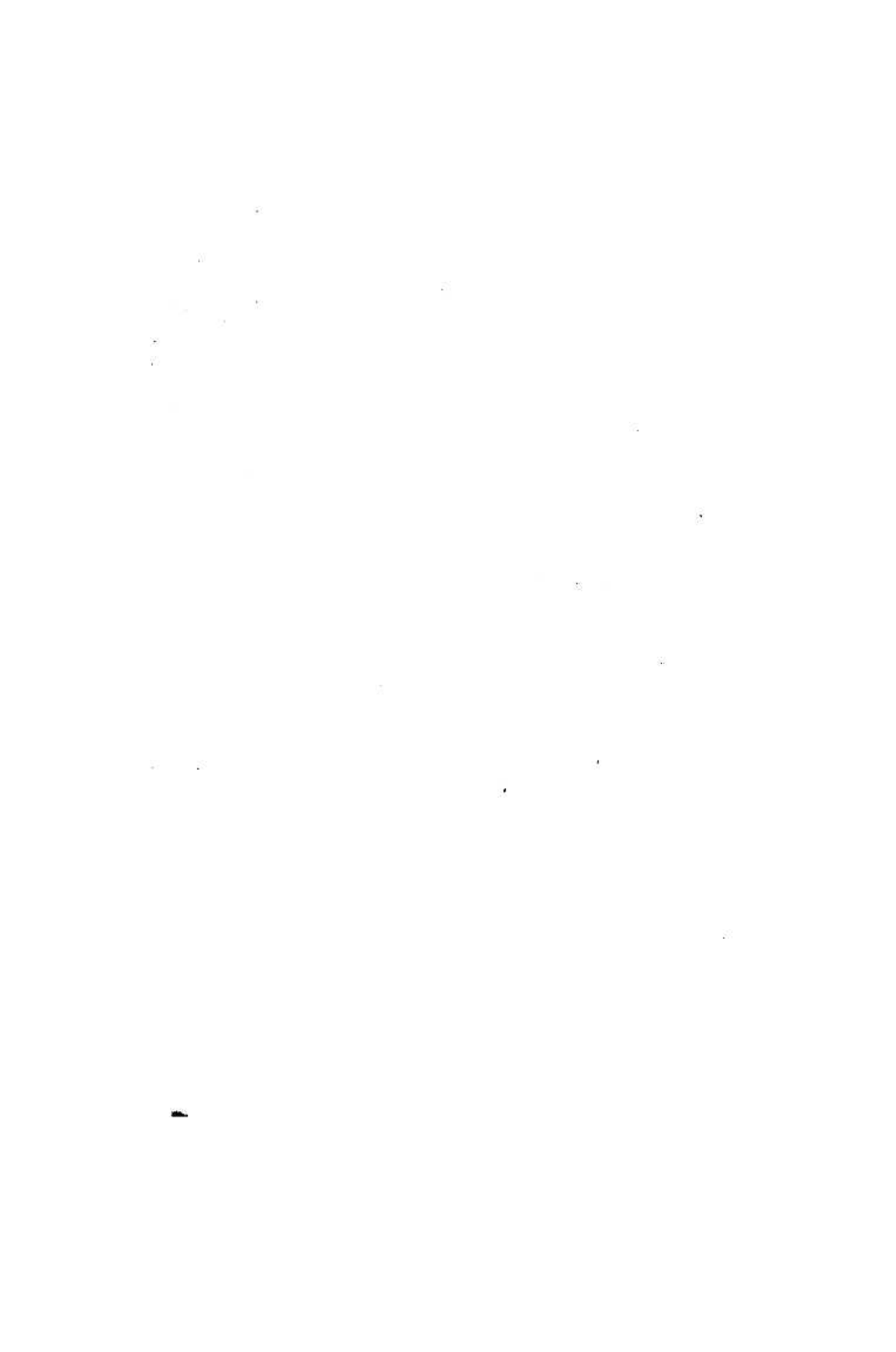
ANNE MOORE, Ph.D

Published by

THE STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PROVISION FOR THE
FEEBLE-MINDED

NEW YORK CITY
United Charities Building
105 East 22nd Street
June, 1911



Foreword

The following report represents an investigation into the conditions of the feeble-minded in New York City made by Dr. Anne Moore for the Public Education Association. This Association transmitted the report to the State Charities Aid Association with a request that further inquiry be made and some action taken. Accordingly, on April 21, 1911, the State Charities Aid Association organized a Special Committee on Provision for the Feeble-minded. This committee publishes the report of Dr. Moore. In giving publicity to the data set forth in the report the committee hopes to re-emphasize the fact that the feeble-minded are a growing danger and burden to society and that segregation can not only stop their reproduction but can also nearly extinguish their race. The committee proposes to collect further data and through legislation to provide means of complete segregation.

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THE ARMY OF SORROW

MARY BUTLER KIRKESIDE

THERE ARE AT LEAST 200,000 PRONOUNCEDLY FREELE-MINDED PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES. OF THESE 16,000 ARE INMATES OF ALMSHOUSES WHILE ONLY 18,000 ARE CARED FOR IN SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Fernald.

MEN of victorious cities, aglow with the heat of the strife,
Men of the bountiful country, alert and throbbing with life,
Fathers of bright-eyed daughters, mothers of stalwart sons,
Hark to the host of the vanquished, marching with lowered guns.
For we are the Army of Sorrow, living, yet worse than dead,
Saddest of all God's creatures, from whom His light has fled.
The guilt of the mighty cities has doubled our teeming ranks,
But many a sun-lit valley sends stragglers at our flanks,
From village and town and prairie o'er the length and breadth of our land
Are gathered the thousands on thousands, who make up our pitiful band.
O God, can ye leave us longer, us who are guiltless of sin,
Or rest for a single moment till each lost sheep is within!
Gray-haired, yet catching at sunbeams; of age, yet playing with toys;
You house us with tramps and drunkards, grown man and man-grown boys.
Lured by each wayward impulse, bereft of the power of control,
Yet placed in a world of demons ready to snatch at our soul.
O Sisters, think of us women, children in innocence,
Yet mothers of fatherless babies, victims of foul offense.
Oh, the pangs that we must suffer, the anguish at their birth,
Hunted, and mocked, and branded the outcasts of the earth.
Saved only the bitter knowledge that by an iron law
Our children, and their children, must carry the self-same flaw.
O Brothers who hold the purse strings in each of the kindred states,
Who vote vast sums for highways, and decking of the gates,
If you laid the wealth of the nation in payment at our feet,
The debt to our lost manhood you still would fail to meet.
Yet now but a handful of us are guarded with zealous care,
While the rest, like a festering ulcer, on our country's breast lie bare.
If Love and fleet-foot Pity knock vainly at your door,
Shall Fear and Worldly-Wisdom not spur you on the more?
We ask for broad, green farm-lands, the sunshine that we love,
With stillness brooding o'er us like the wings of a nesting dove;
To taste the joys of labor on the lap of the kindly earth
And to prove, though maimed and halting, our lives may yet have worth.
We pray that each low ember you gently, wisely fan
Till each of us reach his measure of likeness to a man.
Your reward? May it not be the Vision that in our wrecked bodies of clay
A Christ-child was growing in wisdom and stature from day unto day?
—Reprinted from *The Survey* of May 6, 1911.

"Feeble-mindedness produces more pauperism, degeneracy and crime than any other one force. It touches every form of charitable activity. It is felt in every part of our land. It affects in some way all our people. Its cost is beyond our comprehension. It is the unappreciated burden of the unfortunate. It is a burden we are compelled to bear; therefore let us bear it intelligently to the end that the chain of evil may be lessened, the weak cared for, and the future made brighter with hope because of our efforts."

AMOS W. BUTLER, Conf. Char. & Cor. 1907.