

1924

Reviews and Criticisms

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Recommended Citation

Reviews and Criticisms, 14 J. Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology 625 (May 1923 to February 1924)

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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

EUGENICAL STERILIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES: A Report of the Psychopathic Laboratory of the Municipal Court of Chicago. By *Harry H. Laughlin*, with an introduction by *Chief Justice Harry Olson*, of the Municipal Court of Chicago. Published by the Psychopathic Laboratory of the Municipal Court of Chicago, December, 1922. Pp. 502.

Chief Justice Olson says in his introduction to this volume: "The success of democracy depends upon the quality of its individual elements. If, in these elements the racial values are high, government will be equal to all the economic, educational, religious and scientific demands of the times. If, on the contrary, there is a constant and progressive racial degeneracy, it is only a question of time when popular self-government will be impossible, and will be succeeded by chaos, and finally a dictatorship."

It is due to the long vision of Judge Olson that the Psychopathic Laboratory was originally established in his court. And it has been one of his unremitting works to produce results of scientific and practical value through this institution. The volume under review is one expression of his zeal in this direction.

The book is designed to be of service to four classes of persons: "First, to law-makers who have to decide upon matters of policy to be worked out in legislation regulating eugenical sterilization; second, to judges of the courts, upon whom, in most of the states having sterilization statutes, devolves the duty of deciding upon the constitutionality of new statutes and of determining cacogenic individuals and of ordering their sexual sterilization; third, to administrative officers who represent the state in locating, and in eugenically analyzing persons alleged to be cacogenic, and who are responsible for carrying out the orders of the courts; and fourth, to individual citizens who, in the exercise of their civic rights and duties, desire to take the initiative in reporting for official determination and action, specific cases of obvious family degeneracy."

The study was begun in 1911 when the author was secretary of a committee appointed by the Eugenics Section of the American Breeders' Association "to Study and to Report on the Best Practical Means for Cutting Off the Defective Germ-Plasm in the American Population." A summary of the first year's work of this committee was reported to the First International Congress of Eugenics in London in 1912. Other publications of the committee appeared in 1914 under the titles: "The Scope of the Committee's Work" and "The Legal, Legislative and Administrative Aspects of Sterilization."

The statistics in the present volume have been brought down to January 1, 1921, and the legal records to January 1, 1922.

It may be useful, as a guide to students and others who occasionally require such information as this volume affords, to quote here the titles of the several chapters.

- I. Chronological List of Laws, Amendments, Executive Vetoes, Repeals, Official Legal Opinions, Board Orders and Court Decisions Relating to Eugenic Sterilization Previous to January 1, 1922.
- II. Analysis, by States, of Sterilization Laws Enacted Prior to January 1, 1922.
- III. Texts and Legislative Records of the Eugenic Sterilization Laws.
- IV. Statistical and Descriptive Summary of Eugenic Sterilization in the Several States.
- V. Analysis of the Eugenic Sterilization Laws by Subject.
- VI. Analytical Outline of Litigation Growing Out of the Several Eugenic Sterilization Statutes Previous to January 1, 1922.
- VII. Detailed Review of Litigation Growing Out of the Several Eugenic Sterilization Statutes:
1, Washington; 2, New Jersey; 3, Iowa; 4, Michigan; 5, New York; 6, Nevada; 7, Indiana; 8, Oregon.
- VIII. Case and Family Histories of Individual Subjects of Litigation Growing Out of the Several Eugenic Sterilization Laws.
- IX. Legal Opinion.
- X. The Right of the State to Limit Human Reproduction in the Interest of Race Betterment.
- XI. Eugenic Diagnosis.
- XII. The Anatomical and Surgical Aspects of Eugenic Sterilization.
- XIII. The Physiological and Mental Effects of Sexual Sterilization.
- XIV. The Legal, Biological and Practical Requirements for an Effective Eugenic Sterilization Law.
- XV. Model Eugenic Sterilization Law.
- XVI. Explanatory Comments on the Model Sterilization Law.
- XVII. Set of Forms Suggested for the Use of the State Eugenicist, the Courts, Private Citizens, and Custodial Institutions in Administering the Model Eugenic Sterilization Law.

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ROBERT H. GAULT.

THE DEFECTIVE DELINQUENT AND INSANE. By *Henry A. Cotton, M. D.* With a foreword by *Adolf Meyer, M. D.* Princeton University Press, 1921. Pp. 201.

In his series of lectures delivered at Princeton University, January, 1921, and a few months later put in book form under the above

title, Dr. Cotton severely criticizes the doctrine of heredity as applied in the field of mental disorders as being "detrimental and destructive." Not only is it scientifically unstable, but it is "obsolete." The only relationship between heredity and mental disorders of the "functional" type is that the former refers to "the individual's constitutional resistance to various toxins, rather than to merely mental instability."

Although criticizing the Freudians on the ground that their work is only mitigative, and hence of secondary value, he recognizes, of course, that mental factors are contributory in the mechanism of the psychoses, but only in so far as they lower the patient's health, and hence his immunity to infection. He points out the various foci of infection in the organism, distinguishing clearly between the primary—teeth and tonsils—and the secondary. All "functional" mental disorders are traceable to toxic poisoning which results from bacteria located in the foci. Such is his thesis.

In support of his contentions he states that over 1,000 patients of the "functional" group have been successfully treated in the manner which he champions during the three years that this method was employed in the New Jersey State Hospital. He cites convincing charts and tables to show his phenomenal success.

Though very positive in some of his statements, he marshals rather convincing evidence in support of them. He discusses mental disorders from the historical, economic, sociological, physiological, and psychological points of view in both an interesting and instructive manner.

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