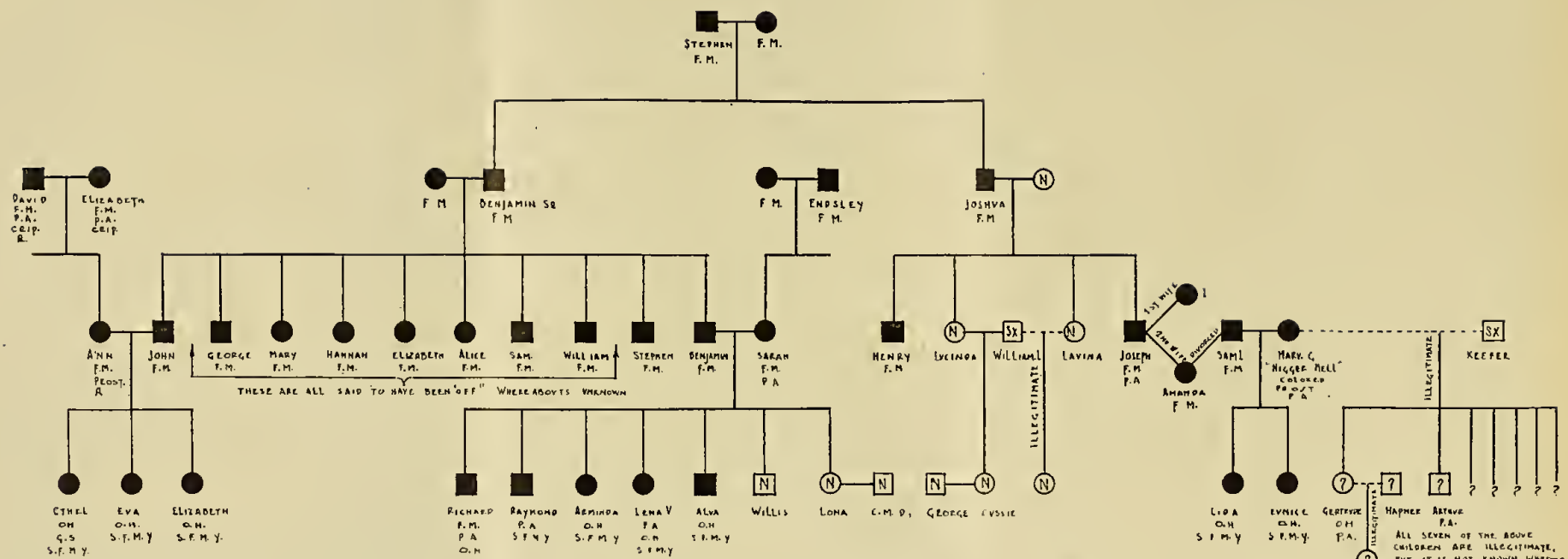


INDIVIDUALS RECORDED	MALE	FEMALE	SEX UNKNOWN	TOTAL
MENTAL CONDITION:				
FEIBLE MIMED	17	19	..	36
INSANE	5	6	..	11
NORMAL	4	2	5	11
NORMALITY IN QUESTION	3	4	..	7
SEX OFFENDERS	1	3	5	9
ILLEGITIMATE	6	12	..	18

THE 'C' FAMILY



THE 'C' FAMILY

	MALE	FEMALE	SEX UNK.	TOTAL
FIVE GENERATIONS				
INDIVIDUALS RECORDED	24	28	5	57
MENTAL CONDITION:				
PEOPLE MINDED	17	19		36
INSANE	1	1		2
NORMAL	6	6		12
NORMALITY IN QUESTION	4	2	5	11
SEX OFFENDERS	3	4		7
ILLEGITIMATE	1	3	5	9
INSTITUTION INMATES	6	12		18

ALL SEVEN OF THE ABOVE CHILDREN ARE ILLEGITIMATE, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER KEEPER IS THE FATHER IN EACH CASE.

A FAMILY IN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD.*

AMOS W. BUTLER,

Secretary Indiana Board of State Charities,
Indianapolis.

Not long ago I had handed to me a little card containing these words:

“When shall we apply the same intelligence to breeding human beings that we apply to breeding cattle?”

It came at a time when we were investigating the family histories of some of the state's wards whose names are recorded in the registration of the Board of State Charities. The application was made more striking by having before me charts of some of these families, some of them running back five or six generations. These tell a story of degeneracy that is appalling. I have thought you would be interested in one of them whose visible beginning was in a pair of feeble-minded ancestors about a hundred years ago. It includes five generations, represented by fifty-seven individuals.

There would be some changes in the chart as a result of subsequent investigations but in the main the facts are as given.

The “C” Family.

	Sex			Total.
	Male.	Female.	Unknown.	
Individuals recorded	24	28	5	57
Mental condition:				
Feeble-minded	17	19	.	36
Insane	1	.	1
Normal	3	6	.	9
Normality in question.....	4	2	5	11
Sex offenders	3	4	.	7
Illegitimate	1	3	5	9

*Read at Indiana Academy of Science, Indianapolis 1914.

Our investigations brought to light the fact that eighteen members of this family have been at some time of their lives inmates of public institutions in Indiana. Our information as to the length of time five of these were on public support is incomplete: it was before our present registration of institution inmates was begun. Concerning the other thirteen, however, we have accurate data. To date they have spent a total of 203 years, 5 months in public institutions.

Eleven have been in county poor asylums 44 years, 3 months; 7 have been in orphans' homes 40 years, 7 months; 8 have been in the School for Feeble-Minded Youth 110 years, 11 months; one has been in the Indiana Girls' School 7 years, 8 months. If their maintenance has averaged but \$125 a year, the total cost has already amounted to more than \$25,000. This is not all. There are now five young women of this family in the School for Feeble-Minded Youth at Fort Wayne. Their ages are 22, 23, 24, 28 and 32 years, an average of 25.8 years. At the annual average per capita cost of maintenance in that institution last year (\$140.68) these five young women cost the State \$700.00 a year.

I ask this question: What are we going to do about it? It is one of our problems.

A legislative commission in New Jersey has recently made a report after a thorough investigation of the problem of mental defectiveness. Other commissions in New York, Massachusetts, and elsewhere have been, or are, engaged in this work. Is it not time that Indiana should wake up and have a commission to study the problem of mental defectiveness? What is the condition? What are the needs? How shall they be met? What is the wisest plan to follow? What are we going to do to save ourselves this continually increasing population of mental defectiveness, that is shown by this chart and could be shown by a hundred others, to be growing up in the State of Indiana without our knowledge, without our thought, without our effort to prevent it? The question comes to us: What will we do about it?