

WALTER ELMORE FERNALD

SUPERINTENDENT, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED, 1887-1924

The Samuel Gridley Howe Library, Waltham, Mass.

**The annotations of the works listed here come from the "Bibliography of Walter E. Fernald" by E. E. Woodill and A. M. Wallace, BULLETIN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES, April 1930, Vol. 14, nos. 1 and 2, the Fernald Memorial Number. Many of the publications exist in different forms; often only one is listed.**

After-care study of patients discharged from Waverly for a period of twenty-five years. UNGRADED, Nov. 1919, Vol. 5, no. 2, 25-31. Reprint, THIRTY YEARS PROGRESS . . . 501 - 28.

Dr. Fernald felt that the time was ripe for placing more consumers in the community and for establishing a social service department to carry on their supervision. Before he felt justified in doing this he wished to have some knowledge of what had happened to those who had been discharged from the School. This survey proved that many of the things that were supposed to have happened had not happened and it gave him courage to place more trained consumers at work for wages.

The Burden of feeble-mindedness. The annual discourse; delivered June 12, 1912. Reprinted from MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MASS. MEDICAL SOCIETY, Vol. 23, 1912. Also in THIRTY YEARS PROGRESS, 501 - 28.

Read at the annual dinner of the Massachusetts Medical Society. This paper presents to the medical profession the known pathology, causes, types and influence of heredity, also the social and economic aspects and a discussion of sterilization. The need of greater understanding of the problem among the medical profession is emphasized and their aid in helping in eliminating mental retardation is urged.

Care of the feeble-minded. Read at the National Conference of Charities and Correction, Portland, Me., June 20, 1904. See THIRTY YEARS . . . 501 - 28. Rept. from the NATIONAL BULLETIN OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION, 1904. 3rd ed. Boston: Geo. H. Ellis Co., 1912.

The Diagnosis of the higher grades of mental defect. Rept. from AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INSANITY, Vol. 70, no. 3, Jan. 1914. Also in THIRTY YEARS . . . 501 - 28 and UNGRADED, Feb. 1922.

This paper was written when the formal mental tests were just coming into general use. It indicates in a general way the fields of investigation necessary to make a diagnosis and give advice.

The Duty of the state toward the feeble-minded. In NEW YORK STATE CONFERENCE CHARITIES AND CORRECTION PROCEEDINGS, 16th, 1915, 178-188. See 213 p-10.

Excerpts from the writings of Walter E. Fernald. TRAINING SCHOOL BULLETIN, 1940, 37, 130-134. Handwritten copy in COLLECTED PAPERS . . . No. 7, Vol. 1.

“We quote paragraphs from Care and Training of Feeble-Minded Children of the Lower Grades, taken from a paper by Dr. Fernald read before the Association of Medical Officers of American Institutions for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Persons --1894.” TRAINING SCHOOL BULLETIN, p. 37.

This paper has for many years served as a text book on the subject and has had a very wide distribution. It was translated into French.

Excerpts from the writings of Walter E. Fernald: Sense training for low-grade children. TRAINING SCHOOL BULLETIN, 1944, 41, 138-143. Mimeographed (?) copy of paper in COLLECTED PAPERS . . . No. 12, Vol. 1.

“These excerpts were taken from a paper read before the New England Association of School Superintendents, Boston, 1897.” TRAINING SCHOOL BULLETIN, p. 138.

Paper called “Feeble-minded children”: The subject is treated from an educational standpoint, and brings the importance of the establishment of special classes for “mentally dull and retarded children” in the public schools to the attention of educators. Up to this time the only special class of this kind was one at Providence, Rhode Island.

Farm colony in Massachusetts. JOURNAL OF PSYCHO-ASTHENICS, June 1903, Vol. 7, no. 4, 74-80. Plates of Templeton Colony.

The Feeble-minded. Rept. from the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, New York, Sept. 1917. Read at the Conference of Feeble-mindedness of the Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene, Dec. 13, 1916. Copy in THIRTY YEARS . . . 201 - 28.

Dr. Fernald summed it up as follows: “This Conference is really a checking up of our knowledge and a mobilization of our resources preliminary to a concerted and correlated drive upon feeble-mindedness all along the line.”

Feeble-minded children. Read before the New England Association of School Superintendents, Boston, 1897. 2nd ed. Boston: Geo. H. Ellis Co., 1912. See “Excerpts”. Copy in 1917 Harvard Summer School volume, Historical Collection, History Room.

Feeble-mindedness. MENTAL HYGIENE, Oct. 1924, 8, no. 4, 964-971. Reprint also.

This paper was written for inclusion in the third edition of A MENTAL HEALTH PRIMER, published by the Mass. Society for Mental Hygiene. It presents the subject in very simple language for popular distribution.

The Growth of provision for the feeble-minded in the United States. MENTAL HYGIENE, Jan. 1917, Vol. 1, no. 1, 34-59. Also see Historical Collection, 208-10, Appendix pp. 164-166

The History of the treatment of the feeble-minded. In REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTIETH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION, 1893, 203-221. Reprint in 501 - 28. Also found in the 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED AT WALTHAM, for the year ending September 30, 1893.

Read at a combined meeting of the Asso. of Medical Officers of American Institutions for Idiocy and Feeble-Minded Persons and the International Conference of Charities and Corrections held at the World's Fair at Chicago. Dr. Fernald was President of the Ass. of Medical Officers at that time. The paper summarizes and interprets the progress of the care and training from Itard and Seguin to the end of 1892.

The Imbecile with criminal instincts. Reprinted from the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INSANITY, April 1909, Vol. 65, no. 4. Fourth edition, Boston, 1912. In JOURNAL OF PSYCHO-ASTHENICS, Sept. 1909 - June 1910, Vol. 14, 16-36. In 501 - 28.

Read at the Sixty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the American Medico-Psychological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio, May 12-15, 1908 and at the meeting of the Association at Chippewa Falls, Wis., June 21, 1909. It presents the subject from the standpoint of delinquency and criminology. The term "moron" was not used at this time and "imbecile" includes this group.

The Importance of the early discovery and treatment of defectives in special public school classes. An address before the Public Education Association of Philadelphia, Nov. 9, 1906.

This was one of the earliest papers written from an educational standpoint and did much to interest educators in the problem of children with special needs in public schools and public school special classes.

The Inauguration of a state-wide public-school mental clinic in Massachusetts. MENTAL HYGIENE, July 1922, Vol. 6, no. 3, 471-486. Reprint, and in 501 - 28.

Address at the Forty-sixth Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Study of the Feeble-minded, St. Louis, May 20, 1922. Dr. Fernald had always felt that the diagnosis of mental defect should be made as early as possible. He reasoned that all children pass through the public school system at some time. Acting largely on his advice in 1919 the Mass. Legislature passed a law requiring the mental examination of children three years or more retarded in mental development and the establishment of special classes in cities or towns where ten or more children with mental defects were found. This paper describes the establishment and organization of a network of clinics covering the entire state.

The Massachusetts Farm Colony for the Feeble-minded. Paper read at the Conference of Charities and Corrections at Detroit, 1902. In COLLECTED PAPERS, Vol. 1, no. 13-B. (Same paper as indicated as being in SURVEY, 1912?--BIB., p. 247.)

An outline of the first five years of the Templeton Colony. Gives the reasons for starting the Colony, the plan of construction, the early organization, and a report of the work done from the time of the transfer of the first fifty boys from Waverly. (Only first two years covered in this paper.) See "Farm Colony in Massachusetts."

Mental hygiene. Reprint from BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL, Dec. 30, 1920, Vol. 183, no. 27, 759-761.

This paper was read before the Massachusetts Medical Society, June 9, 1920. The purport was to give physicians some idea of community care for people with mental retardation. It stresses early diagnosis and understanding of the great number of people who must be cared for extra-institutionally.

Mentally defective children in the public schools. JOURNAL OF PSYCHO-ASTHENICS, Dec. 1903, Vol. 8, no. 2-3, 25-35.

This paper was written after a trip abroad in 1903. It is devoted to a description of special classes for children with mental retardation in Prussia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and England. It did much to stimulate interest in the establishment of special classes in the public schools of this country.

Municipal duty to the feeble-minded. See Social significance . . . , PAPERS, #30.

An Out-patient clinic in connection with a state institution for the feeble-minded. Rept. from AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INSANITY, Vol. 77, no. 2, Oct. 1920.

Read at the Seventy-sixth Annual Meeting of the American Medico-Psychological Association, Cleveland, June 1-4, 1920. It is a report of the work done by the out-patient clinic held at the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded from 1891-1920--six thousand patients were examined and advised during that period.

An Outline of a state program for the care of the feebleminded. Read at a meeting of the Iowa State Board of Control and the Des Moines Health Center, Sept. 1, 1920.

The Place of home-grown vegetables and fruits in the ration. Read, Amherst, Jan. 19, 1921. Typewritten.

The Salvage of the backward child. Reprinted from the BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL, Aug. 2, 1923, Vol. 189, no. 5, 161-165. Also 501 - 28 & 103 p-54.

This paper was read before the Philadelphia Conference on Social Work, April 19, 1923, and stresses community care. In conclusion: "The real purpose of this program is to make education and social service in the broadest sense the keynotes of the management of feeble-mindedness."

Should the scope of the public school system be broadened to take in all children capable of education, and if so, how should this be done? -- Discussion. COLLECTED PAPERS, Vol. 1, #16.

Paper by Mary C. Greene, ex-superintendent of Special Classes for the Blind in the Board Schools, London England ; read at the annual convention of the Depart. of Special Education, Boston, July 1903. Dr. Fernald said: "Every American child has the right to be educated according to his need and capacity."

Social significance of mental defect / Municipal duty to the feeble-minded. COLLECTED PAPERS, Vol. 2, no. 30.

On the invitation of the Committee on the Feeble-Minded, Nova Scotia, Dr. Fernald read this paper at Amherst, N.S. and Halifax, N.S. on August 26-17, 1914 to stimulate public interest and to assist in the movement to start an institution in the Maritime Provinces.

Some of the methods employed in the care and training of feeble-minded children of the lower grades. Rept. from PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS FOR IDIOTIC AND FEEBLE-MINDED PERSONS -- SESSION 1894. Press of The Faribault Democrat, 1894. 309 p-14. Also 4th ed., Waltham Pub. Co., 1926.

This paper has for many years served as a text book on the subject and has had a very wide distribution. It was translated into French and published under the title of "Quelques unes des methodes employees pour les soins et l'education des enfants les plus idiots."

Some of the limitations of the plan for segregation of the feeble-minded. UNGRADED, May 1918, Vol. 3, no. 8, 171-176.

Some phases of feeble-mindedness. Albany: J.B. Lyon Co., Printers, 1912. 629 p-35. Also Waltham Pub. Co., 1926.

This paper was read at the National Conference of Charities and Correction at Portland, Maine, in 1904. It presented the subject of mental retardation from a sociological and economic standpoint and emphasized that juvenile delinquents and adult criminals should be studied from this angle. This paper was of great assistance in interesting the people of Maine in establishing an institution for people with mental retardation.

Standardized fields of inquiry for clinical studies of borderline defectives. MENTAL HYGIENE, Vol. 1, no. 2, 211-234, April 1917. Reprint: 501 - 28.

This paper was read before the Boston Society of Psychiatry and Neurology in January 1917. It was written to establish a standard method of examining patients for mental retardation. It outlines the Ten Fields of Inquiry which have been used in many clinics in this and other states, and was adopted by the Commission of Mental Diseases for use in the school clinics throughout this state. At this time many psychologists contended that mental tests alone were all that were needed to make a diagnosis of mental defect. This paper was a protest against this method.

A State program for the care of the mentally defective. Read at the Child Welfare Conference of the Children's Bureau, Washington, D.C., June 15, 1919. 501 - 28. Reprinted from MENTAL HYGIENE, Vol. 3, no. 4, 566-574, Oct. 1919.

This paper was read several times and was presented in three different states; first at the Child Welfare Conference; second at the State Conference of Social Work at Madison, Wisconsin, 1919, and again at the meeting of the Iowa State Board of Control and the Des Moines Health Center in 1920. It presents the most comprehensive program for the care of people with mental retardation up to that time.

The subnormal child. Reprinted from SCHOOL AND SOCIETY, Vol. 18, no. 458, Oct. 6, 1923. 501 - 28

This paper was read at a meeting of the Harvard Teachers' Association at Sanders Theater, Harvard College, April 28, 1923. The writer calls attention to the greatly increased interest of the educator in the exceptional child. The program for the help of this child is as follows: 1. Early recognition of every exceptional child in the public schools. 2. Education suited to each child's needs and capacity. 3. Long-continued industrial and vocational training. 4. Social service during the lifetime of the child.

Thirty years progress in the care of the feeble-minded. JOURNAL OF PSYCHOASTHENICS, Vol. 29, 1923-1924, 206-219. Address of the President. 501 - 28. Reprinted from PROCEEDINGS OF THE 48TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED, May 20 - June 2, 1924.

Dr. Fernald was president of this organization for the second time. It 1893, at the International Conference of Charities in Chicago, "The History of the Feeble-Minded" was assigned as the subject of his address. This address summarizes the progress from the time of Seguin until the end of 1892. This address reviews "the progress made in the science and art of caring for the feeble-minded" from 1893 to 1923.

WAVERLY RESEARCHES IN THE PATHOLOGY OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED:

1. Memoirs of American Academy of Arts and Sciences, May 1918. Vol. 14, no. 2. Edited by Walter E. Fernald and E.E. Southard, with the collaboration of Annie E. Taft. Cases 1-10.
2. Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, December 1921. Vol. 14, no. 3. Edited by Walter E. Fernald and E.E. Southard, with the collaboration of Myrtelle M. Canavan, Oscar J. Raeder and Annie E. Taft. Cases 11-20.

Dr. Fernald formulated the scheme of having a study made of fifty post-mortem brains and furnished the inspiration for this work. He interested Dr. E. E. Southard, Pathologist from the Commission on Mental Diseases and Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School, in the scientific part of the work. Most of the brains for the study were from the Waverley School. Many of the autopsies were done by Dr. Canavan; Dr. Taft did most of the brain observations.

Note: Cases 21-50 appeared after Dr. Fernald's death in three volumes and were edited by Drs. Canavan and Taft and Louise Eisenhardt.

What is practicable in the way of prevention of mental defect. Reprinted from PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION, Baltimore, 1915. In 501 - 28 and 211 p-16. Also see Historical Collection, 208-10, Appendix, pp. 167-168.

A definite program for the prevention of mental retardation -- segregation, supervision, and continuing census and registration of people with mental retardation as well as education in its broadest sense. "The public generally should be persistently informed as to the extent, causes and results of feeble-mindedness by means of suitable literature, popular lectures, and other means."

What shall we do with the feeble-minded? Reprinted from HOSPITAL SOCIAL SERVICE, 1923, Vol. 8, no. 2. Also in 501 - 28.

This paper was read before the Philadelphia Conference on Social Work, April 19, 1923, and stresses community care. In conclusion: "The real purpose of this program is to make education and social service in the broadest sense the keynotes of the management of feeble-mindedness."

The Library has the COLLECTED PAPERS OF DR. FERNALD, Vol. 1-4. These volumes contain handwritten or typed notes on talks and readings given throughout the country, 1887-1924, many of which are represented in some form in this bibliography. THIRTY YEARS PROGRESS IN THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED brings together several of Dr. Fernald's papers.

