



Fig. 1 – A cartoon illustrating the ‘new method’ of separating the eugenic wheat from the dysgenic chaff by the scientist/education practitioner of the ‘progressive-era’. Several of the authors of the ‘*grammar of science*’ textbooks on Ms. Education’s desk will be profiled in this chapter on the historiography of eugenics education.



DEBORAH KALLIKAK, AS SHE APPEARS TO-DAY AT THE TRAINING SCHOOL.

Fig. 2 – A photo of ‘Deborah Kallikak’ as a young woman, with ‘Henry the Cat’ – named after her famous minder, Henry Goddard.

Deborah was the ‘poster-child’ of eugenic segregation and a staple character in eugenics education lore and civic-biology texts. From the age of eight, she lived at the *Vineland Training School for Feeble-minded Boys and Girls* in New Jersey, until her death at age 89. See J. David Smith (1995) *Minds Made Feeble for*

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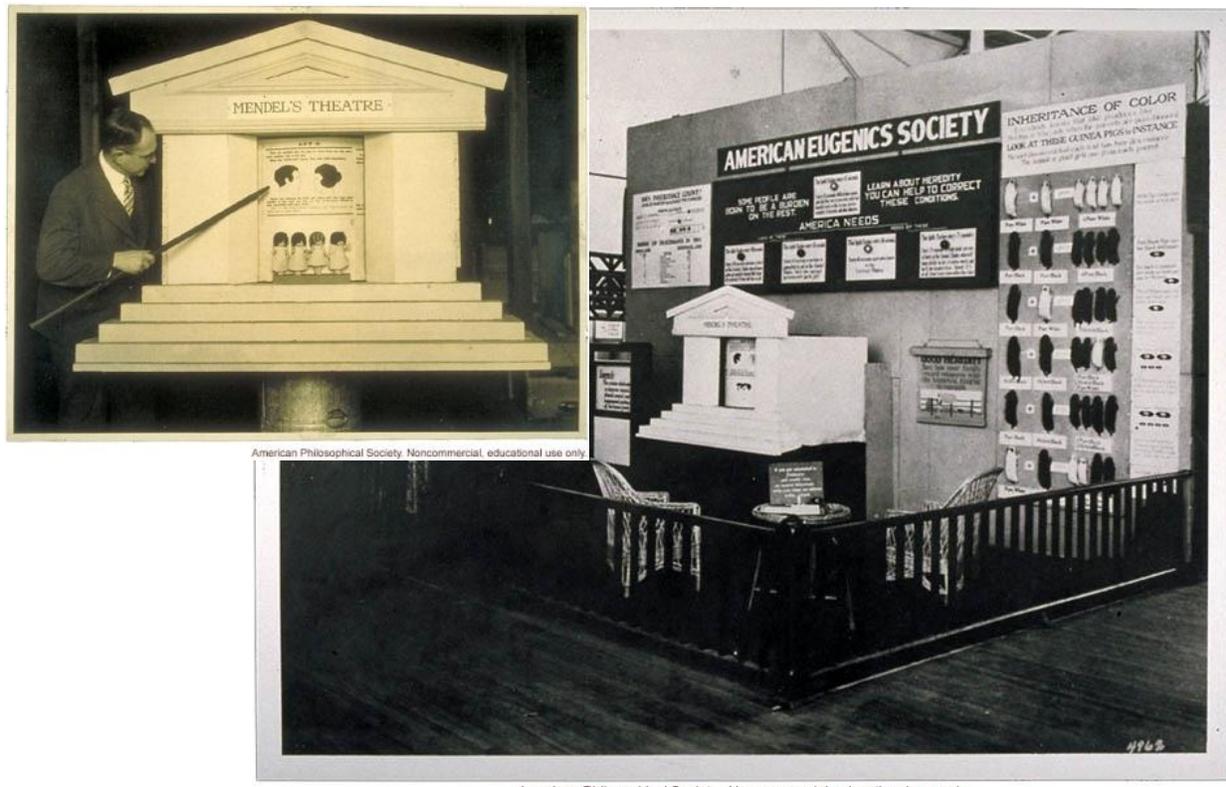
Fig. 3 – A list of the directors and the advisory council of the AES, circa 1935, from the frontispiece of *Tomorrow's Children*, a sort of 'catechism' for eugenics. The list includes many icons of American science and education in the 1930s, including many whose works and careers are considered in the text of this article.

we will assume for the time being Weismann's main conclusion to be correct. One of the chief features of his theory is the non-inheritance by the offspring of characteristics acquired by the parents in the course of life. Thus good or bad habits acquired by the father or mother in their lifetime are not inherited by their children. The effects of special training or of education on the parents have no direct influence on the child before birth. The parents are merely trustees who hand down their commingled stocks to their offspring. From a bad stock can come only bad offspring, and if a member of such a stock is, owing to special training and education, an exception to his family, his offspring will still be born with the old taint.² Now this conclusion of Weismann's—if it be valid, and all we can say at present is that the arguments in favour of it are remarkably strong—radically affects our judgment on the moral conduct of the individual, and on the duties of the state and society towards their degenerate members. No degenerate and feeble stock will ever be converted into healthy and sound stock by the accumulated effects of education, good laws, and

¹ His theory of the "continuity of the germ plasm" is in many respects open to question, but his conclusion as to acquired characteristics being uninherited stands on firmer ground. See Weismann, *Essays on Heredity and Kindred Biological Problems*, Oxford, 1889. A good criticism will be found in C. Ll. Morgan's *Animal Life and Intelligence*, chap. v.; a summary in W. P. Ball's *Are the Effects of Use and Disuse Inherited?* The reader should also consult P. Geddes and J. A. Thomson, *The Evolution of Sex*, and a long discussion in *Nature*, vols. xl. and xli. (*sub indice*, Weismann, *Heredity*).

² Class, poverty, localisation do much to approximately isolate stock, to aggregate the unfit even in modern civilisation. The mingling of good and bad stock due to dispersion is not to be commended, for it degenerates the good as much as it improves the bad. What we need is a check to the fertility of the inferior stocks, and this can only arise with new social habits and new conceptions of the social and the anti-social in conduct.

Fig. 4 – Karl Pearson in *The Grammar of Science* (1900, 26) on the merely temporary value of education, versus the permanent effects of heredity – an encapsulation of the prevailing progressive-era hereditarian *Weltanschauung* endemic to most American eugenicists and many educators. Pearson's views may be passé, but his eugenically inspired techniques and grammar still persist and have an influential legacy



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Fig. 5 – An example of an American Eugenics Society contribution to a display of ‘popular eugenics’ – at the 1926 Sesquicentennial Exposition in Philadelphia, featuring “Mendel’s theater” (in inset being demonstrated by geneticist and educator Leon F. Whitney of the AES), guinea pig coat color on right, and ‘America Needs’ at the top center. (See the enlarged top-center image below of this



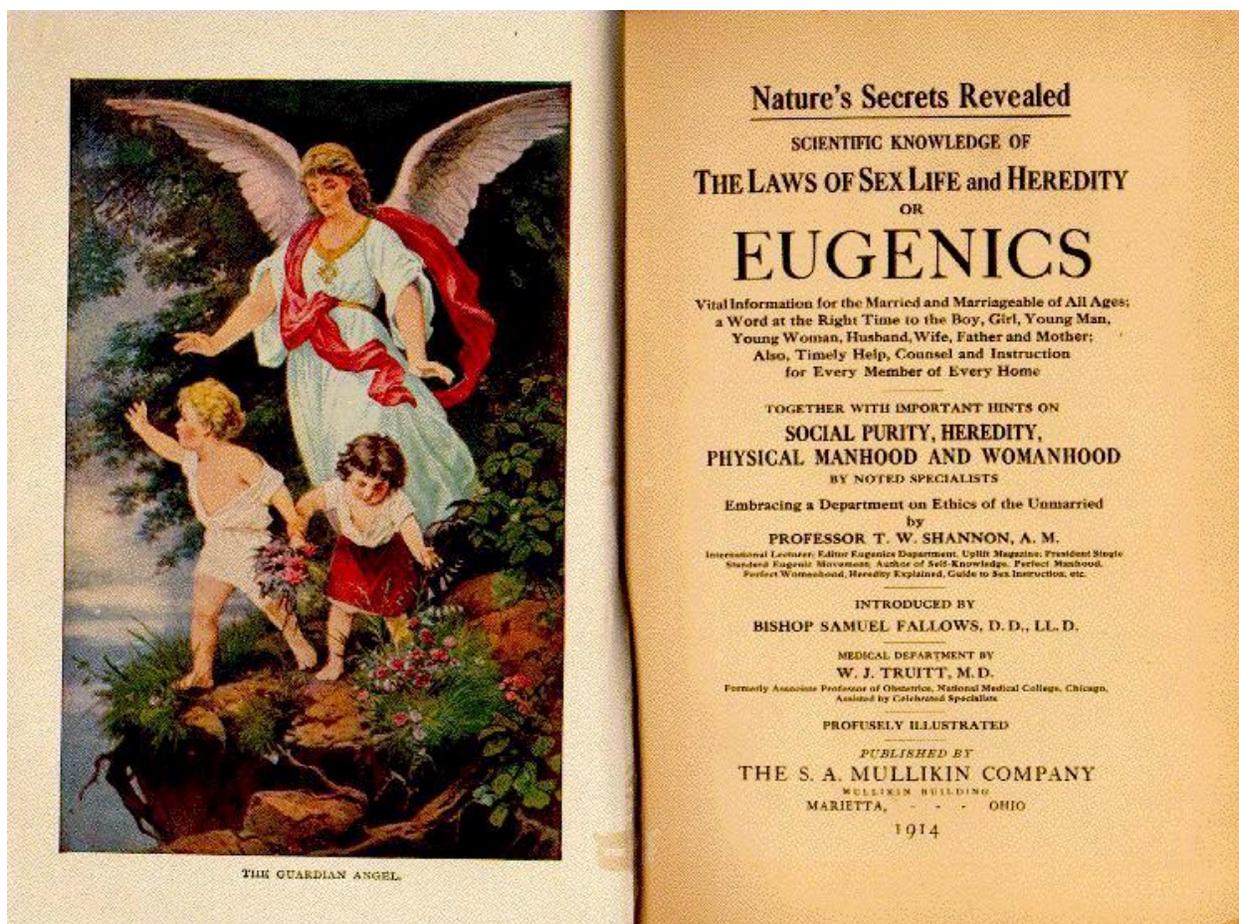


Fig. 6 – A fine illustration of the religious ardor embedded in popular progressive-era eugenics education. Note the harmonious combination of professors, clerics and medical professionals.

Fig. 7 – Appearing first at the 1908 Louisiana State Fair, 'Better Baby Contests' combined physical with crude intelligence measures. They became a staple of eugenic displays at state fairs and exhibitions around the country until well into the Depression years. Note the medical professionals garbed in the white robes of scientific authority



Much like what would become standard for 'Fitter Family Competitions', measurements were



Fig. 8 – A portion of a lavishly revised Kallikak Family pictorial taken from a 1934 German translation (*Die Familie Kallikak*) of Goddard's 1912 classic. This picture includes English translations of the German terminology. For the American 'civic-biology' equivalent see p. 171 of Smith (1985). For a complete, unadulterated image of the 1934 German version see p. 163 of J. David Smith's *Minds Made Feeble: The Myth and Legacy of the Kallikaks* (1985). The semiotic message has been translated as well. A 1935 Nazi-approved race-hygiene textbook altered the caricatures of the 'Kakos-side' of the family to resemble the Polish Jews accused of encroaching into the borderlands of the Reich, especially the vast farmlands of East Prussia.

See Andrew Zimmerman's *Alabama in Africa: Booker T. Washington, the German Empire, and the Globalization of the new South* (2010) for a chilling description of the parallels and interaction of American Eugenics and negro vocational education in the 'New South,' with German race-hygiene in the 2nd Reich, as well as in Germany's African colonies, especially cotton growing in Togo during the early 20th Century. Does this sound anything like Globalization version 1.10?

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Fig. 9 – Contents of Popenoe & Johnson's very popular text *Applied Eugenics* (1918 edition).



"HER SON"
\$4000 prize Statue by Miss Nellie Walker
Courtesy Chicago Art Institute

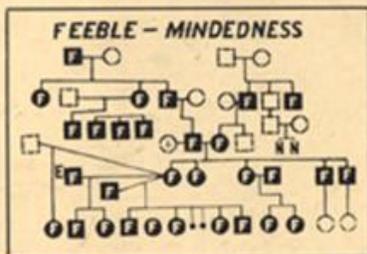
Who will be the Mothers of Coming America?

*The American Woman
is Rapidly Becoming Ugly*

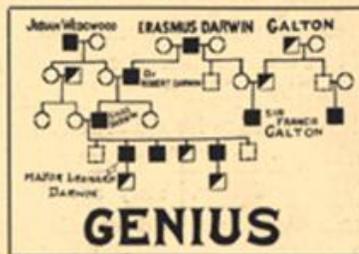
Prof. Ross has proved it. When the low immigrant is giving us *three babes* while the Daughter of the Revolution is giving us *one* it means the Gibson and Harrison Fisher Girl is vanishing. Her place is being taken by the low-browed, broad-faced, flat-chested woman of lower Europe. If this continues it means a progressive loss of racial excellence, intelligence and power.

Imbecility and Genius are both Inherited.

Only opportunity will bring out inborn genius, but imbecility **always** shows.



Pedigree collected by Dr. H. H. Goddard.
The black ones are all feeble-minded.



■ Means Fellow of Royal Society.
♣ Means Eminent in Science. Pedigree collected by Mr. and Mrs. Whetham of England.

Imbecility is increasing. Great men are decreasing

COIT BUREAU
Cleveland

MUTUAL BUREAU
Chicago

WHITE BUREAU
Boston

Fig. 10 – A 1922 advertisement by the *Human Betterment Foundation* in *Collier's Magazine*. The 'Prof Ross' is sociologist E.A. Ross. The bottom-left pedigree chart is from Henry Goddard's *The Kallikak Family* (1912).

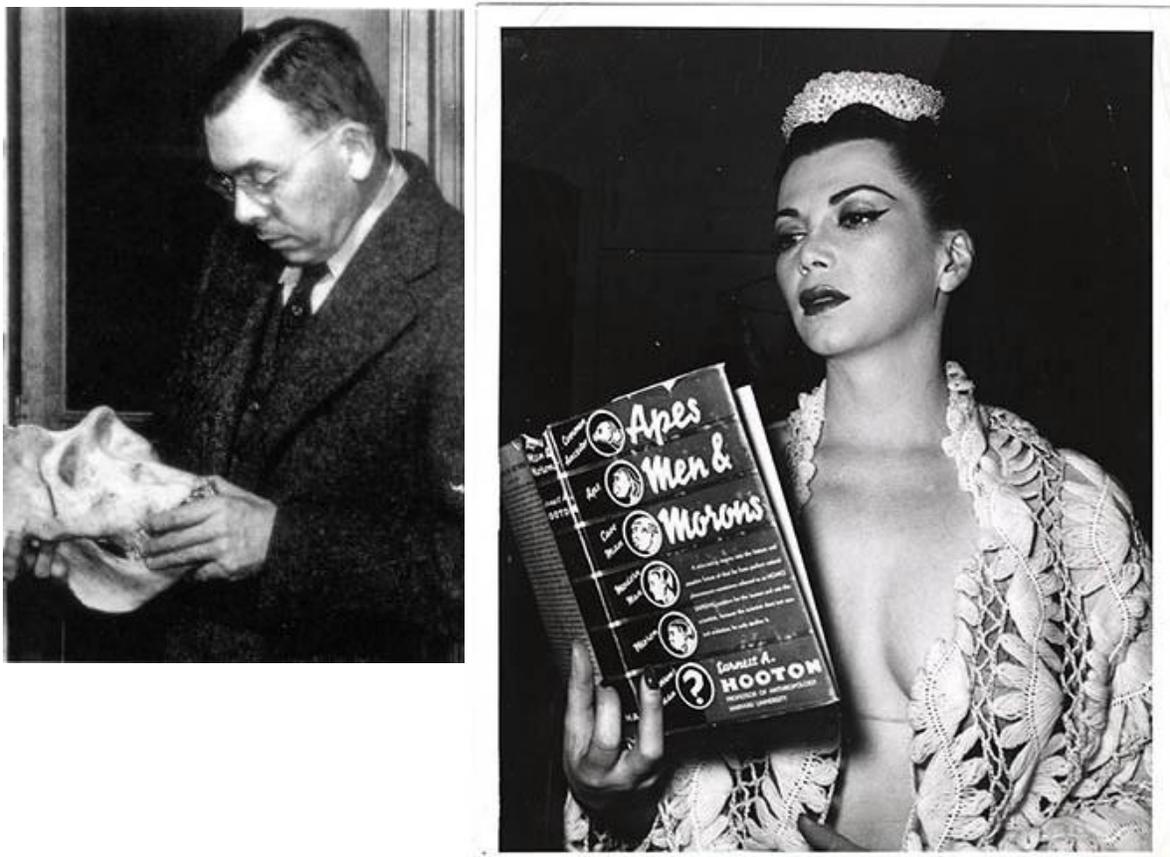


Fig. 11 – Left: Ernest A. Hooton with one of his dental-challenged specimens of racial deterioration, in a scene out of Hamlet. Is something rotten in the State, or at Harvard?

Right: Showgirl Sherry Britton catching-up on her eugenic reading with Hooton's 1937 bestselling popular text on evolution, bad breeding and its implications for America.



Fig. 12 – Professor of German race-hygiene, Dr. Eugen Fischer reading a copy of the American Journal of Heredity in his office at Berlin-Dahlem. Fischer was one of a handful of longstanding academic devotees of Teutonic eugenics who was recruited by the Nazi state to oversee and administer their State science-religion. Fischer served on the Heredity Courts, providing judgments on the fitness for life of numerous *mindervertig* (inferior or