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The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Vol. 37, No. 2, The Public Health Movement (Mar., 1911), pp. 261-272 (12 pages)

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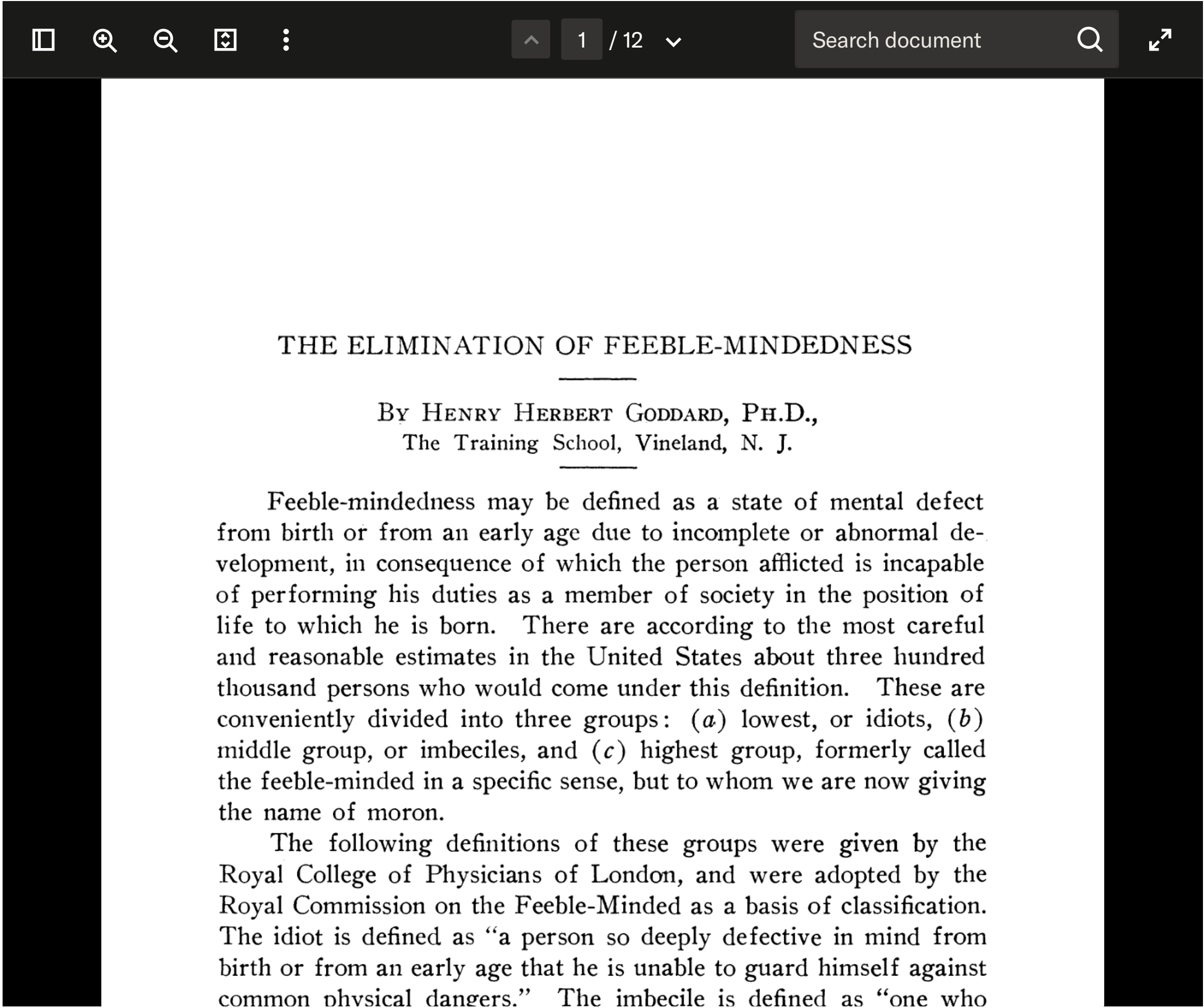
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Feeble-mindedness may be defined as a state of mental defect from birth or from an early age due to incomplete or abnormal development, in consequence of which the person afflicted is incapable of performing his duties as a member of society in the position of life to which he is born. There are according to the most careful and reasonable estimates in the United States about three hundred thousand persons who would come under this definition. These are conveniently divided into three groups: (*a*) lowest, or idiots, (*b*) middle group, or imbeciles, and (*c*) highest group, formerly called the feeble-minded in a specific sense, but to whom we are now giving the name of moron.

The following definitions of these groups were given by the Royal College of Physicians of London, and were adopted by the Royal Commission on the Feeble-Minded as a basis of classification. The idiot is defined as “a person so deeply defective in mind from birth or from an early age that he is unable to guard himself against common physical dangers.” The imbecile is defined as “one who

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