

“Community studies and intensive group inquiries have now definitely proved that mental retardation is an important factor as the cause of juvenile vice and delinquency, adult crime, sexual immorality, venereal disease, illegitimacy, poverty, and other social evil and social disease. The feeble-minded, at large, unguarded, are a menace to the community. The problem itself is the most serious facing the country today.”

Walter Fernald  
1912

“The modern public school class for feeble-minded children ensures diagnosis and treatment at an early age, and serves admirably as a clearinghouse for permanent segregation. These classes should be established in every town and city.

Walter Fernald  
1912

“We know that a lot of the feeble-minded are generous, faithful, and pure-minded. I never lose an opportunity to repeat what I am saying now, that we have really slandered the feeble-minded. Some of the sweetest and most beautiful characters I have ever known have been feeble-minded people.”

Walter Fernald  
1918

“Nowhere is wisdom more necessary than in the guidance of charitable impulses.  
Meaning well is only half our duty;  
thinking right is the other, and equally important, half.”

Samuel Gridley Howe  
1866