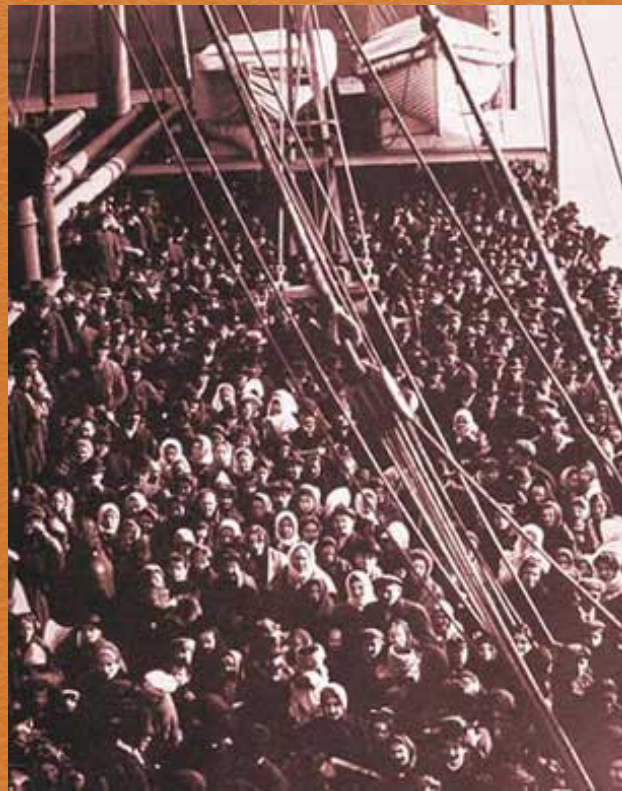


Immigration Americanization



1. Immigrants after 1890

- ✧ Most from Southern and Eastern Europe (Italians, Poles, Russians)
- ✧ Catholic, Jewish, or Eastern Orthodox



Immigrants traveled in
“steerage” – the least
expensive passage



They came on deck for fresh air

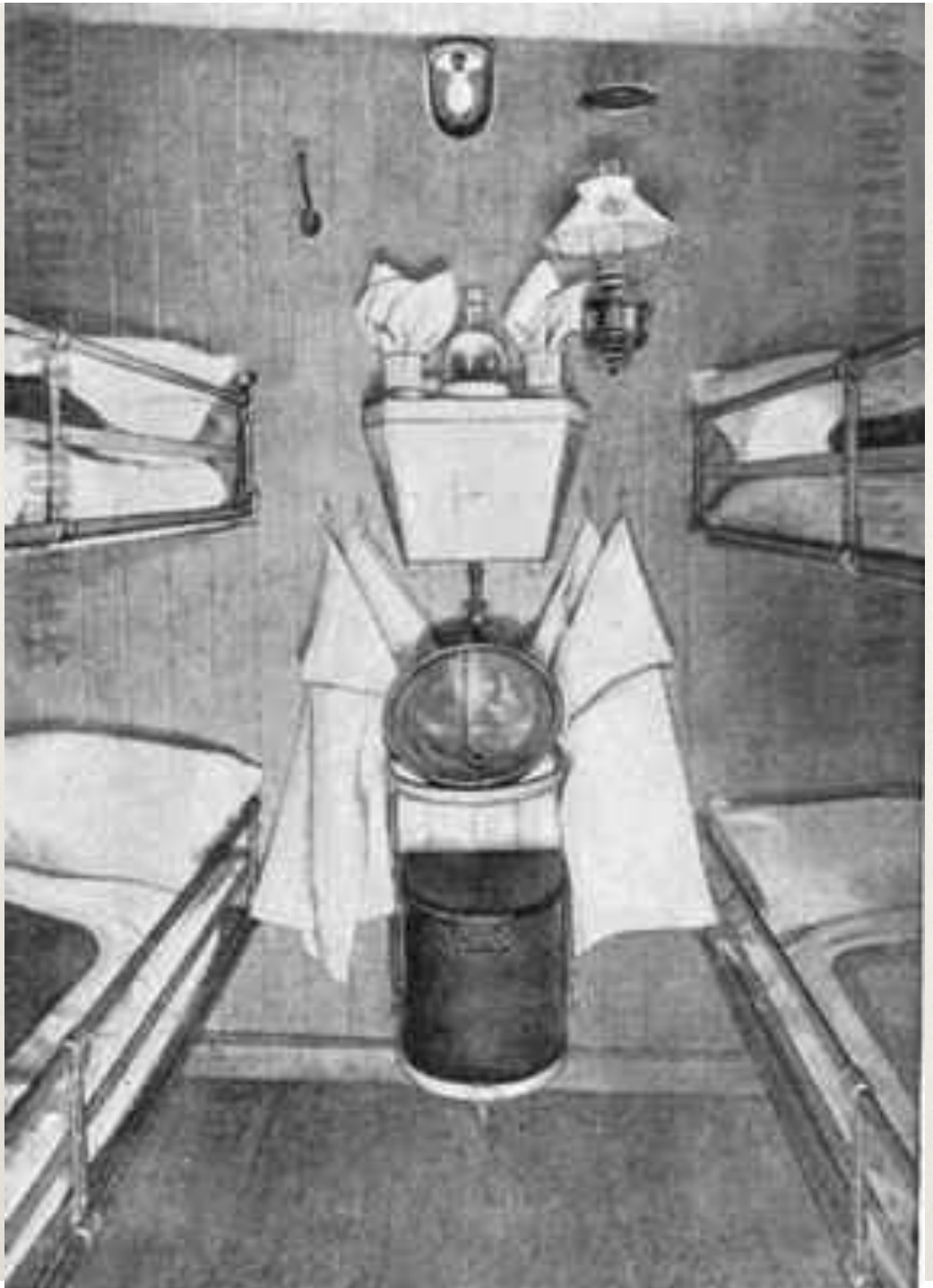
*



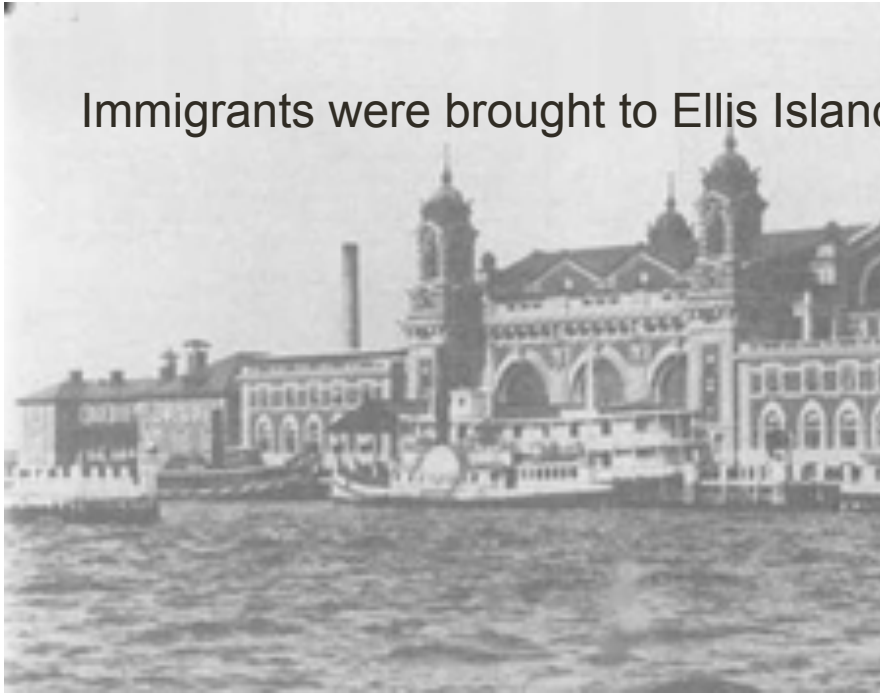
They slept in dormitories and ate cafeteria style



Some ships had small
semi-private rooms.



Immigrants were brought to Ellis Island, the immigration station in the late 1800s







Immigrants were given a number and went to dormitories to wait for processing.









gettyimages®

They were given medical tests to be sure they were not carrying diseases. They could be quarantined or sent back if they were.



Ellis Island, main hall



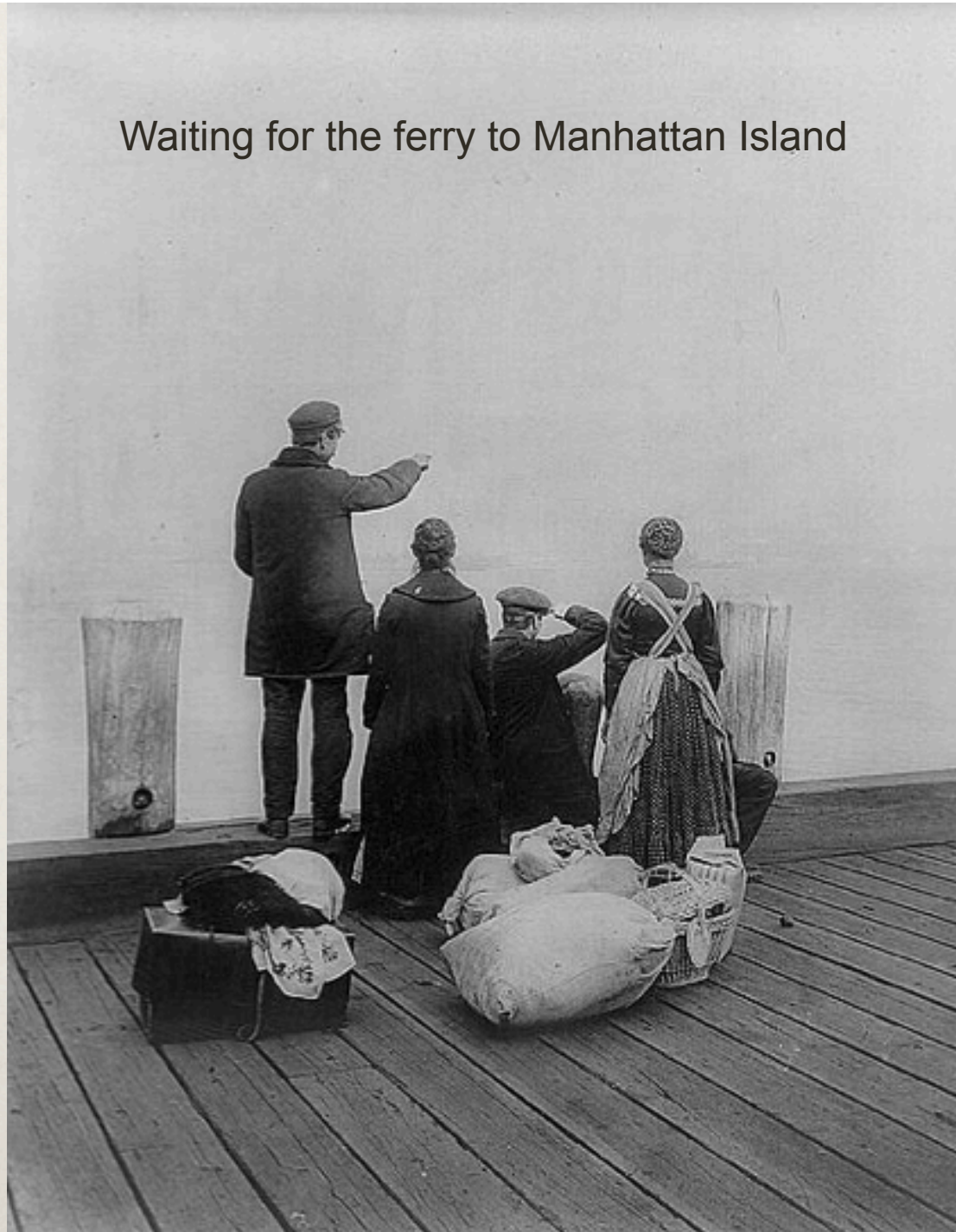




Agents took their names (might change them); prospects for a job.



Waiting for the ferry to Manhattan Island







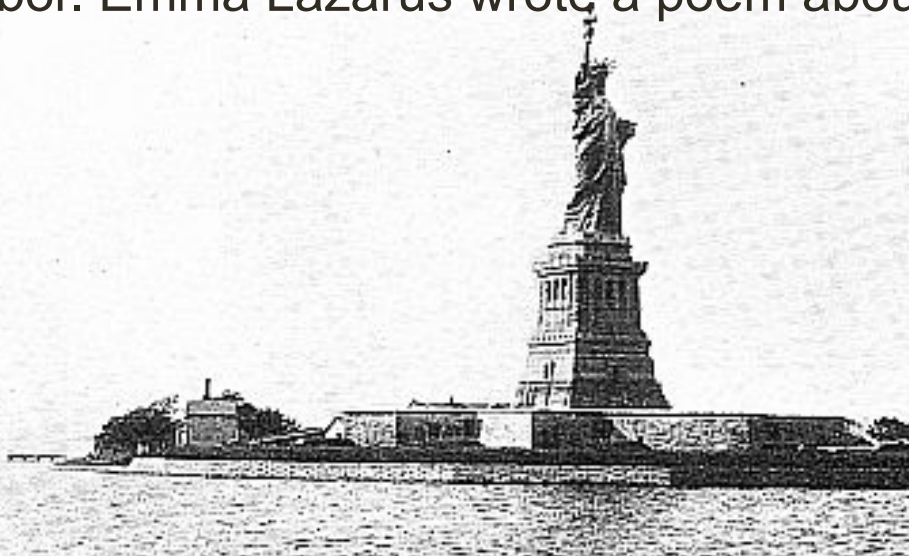
C. Statue of Liberty

A gift from
America's
symbolized
freedom and

France for
100th birthday;
American
rights



It was the first thing immigrants saw when they came to NY Harbor. Emma Lazarus wrote a poem about it.



The New Colossus

Emma Lazarus, 1883

...Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand

A mighty woman with a torch...her name

Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand

Glow world-wide welcome...

"Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"



The Colossus of Rhodes (artist's rendition)

Now it would represent “welcome” to immigrants



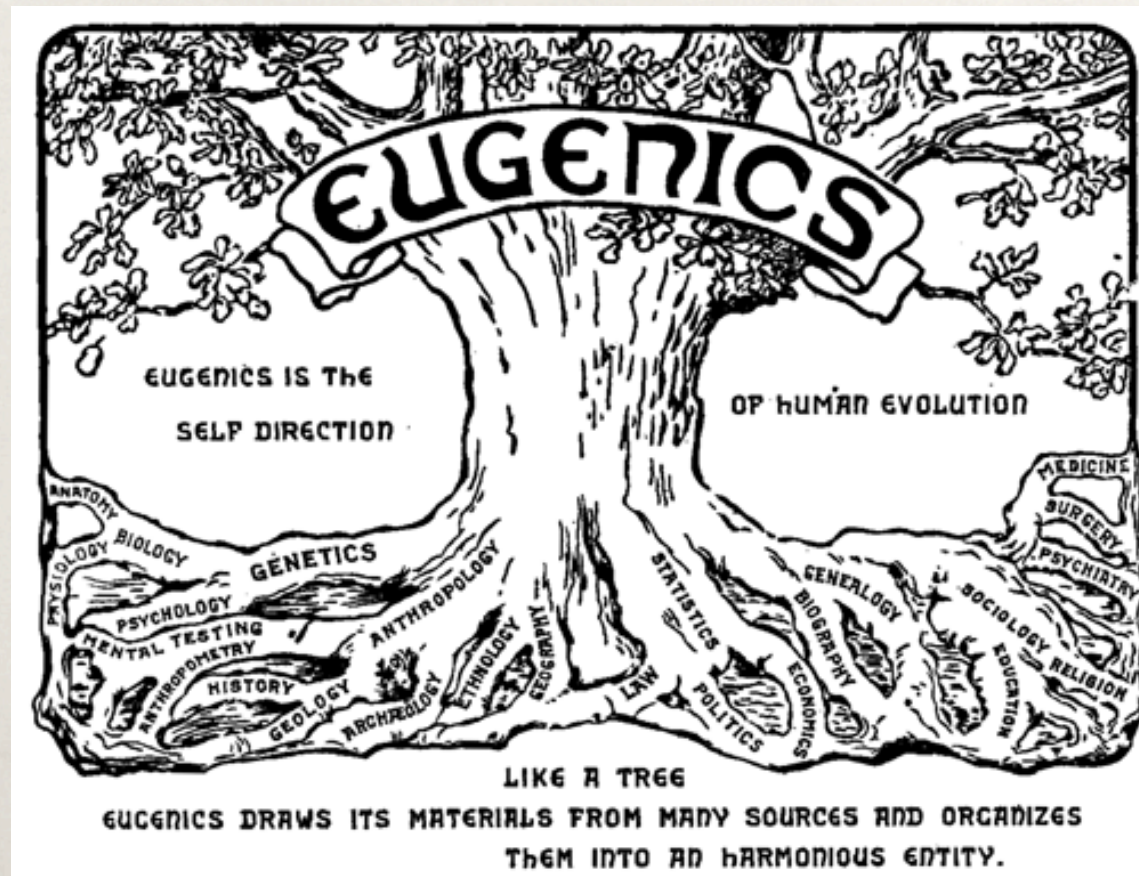
2. Concerns about Immigrants/Immigration:

- A. Anglo-Saxonism = belief that the White Anglo-Saxon Protestant (“WASP” or “Anglo”) “race” was superior to the other groups and was in danger from immigrants. Led to “Eugenics.”



2. Concerns about Immigrants/Immigration: Eugenics (“good breeding”)

- * Program which focused on developing “fitter” Americans based on the “science” of the period



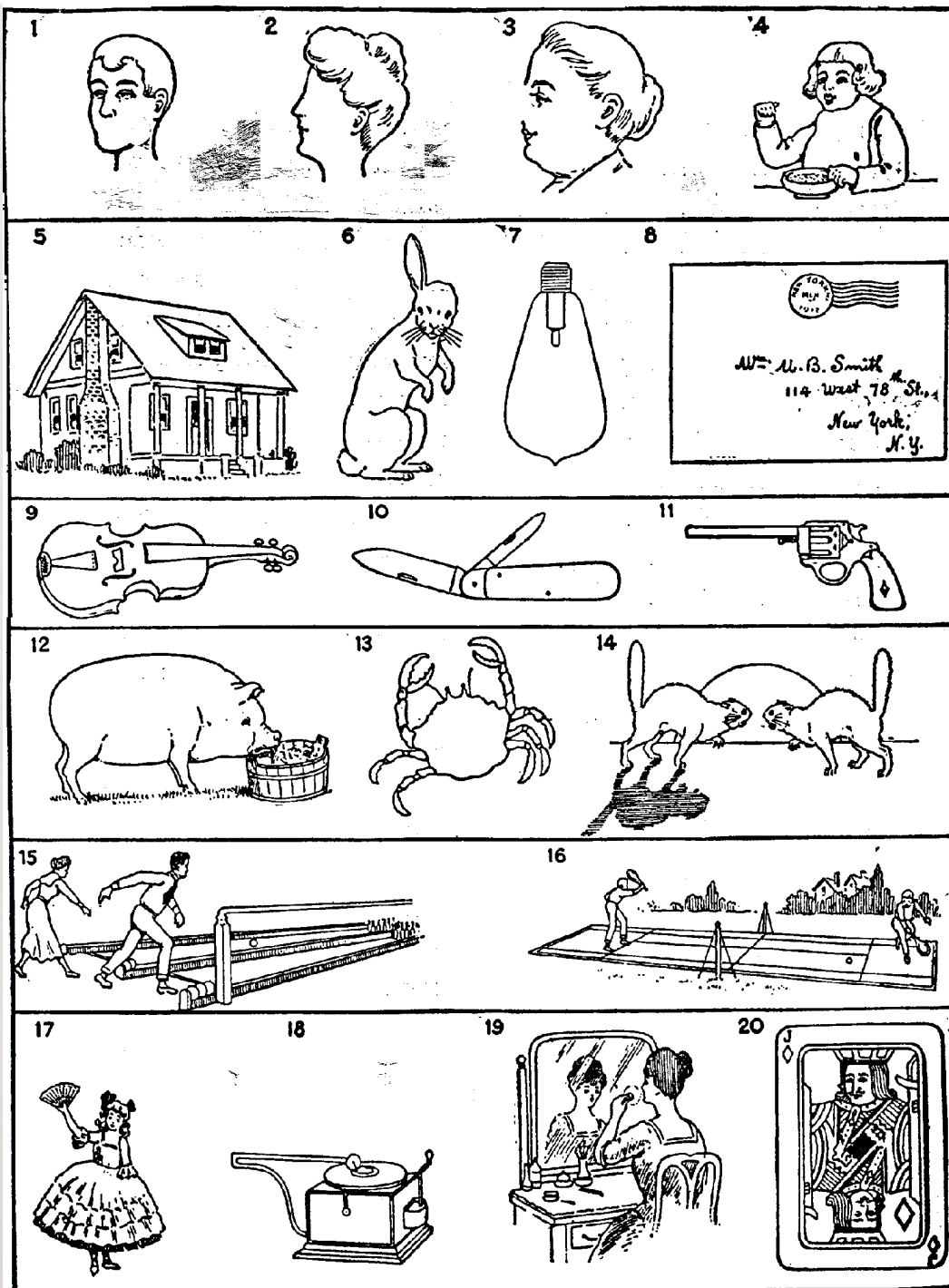


Methods of implementing Eugenics:

1. Testing – immigrants were tested upon arrival to determine if they were “fit” or “feeble-minded” -- starts IQ and the standardized testing movement

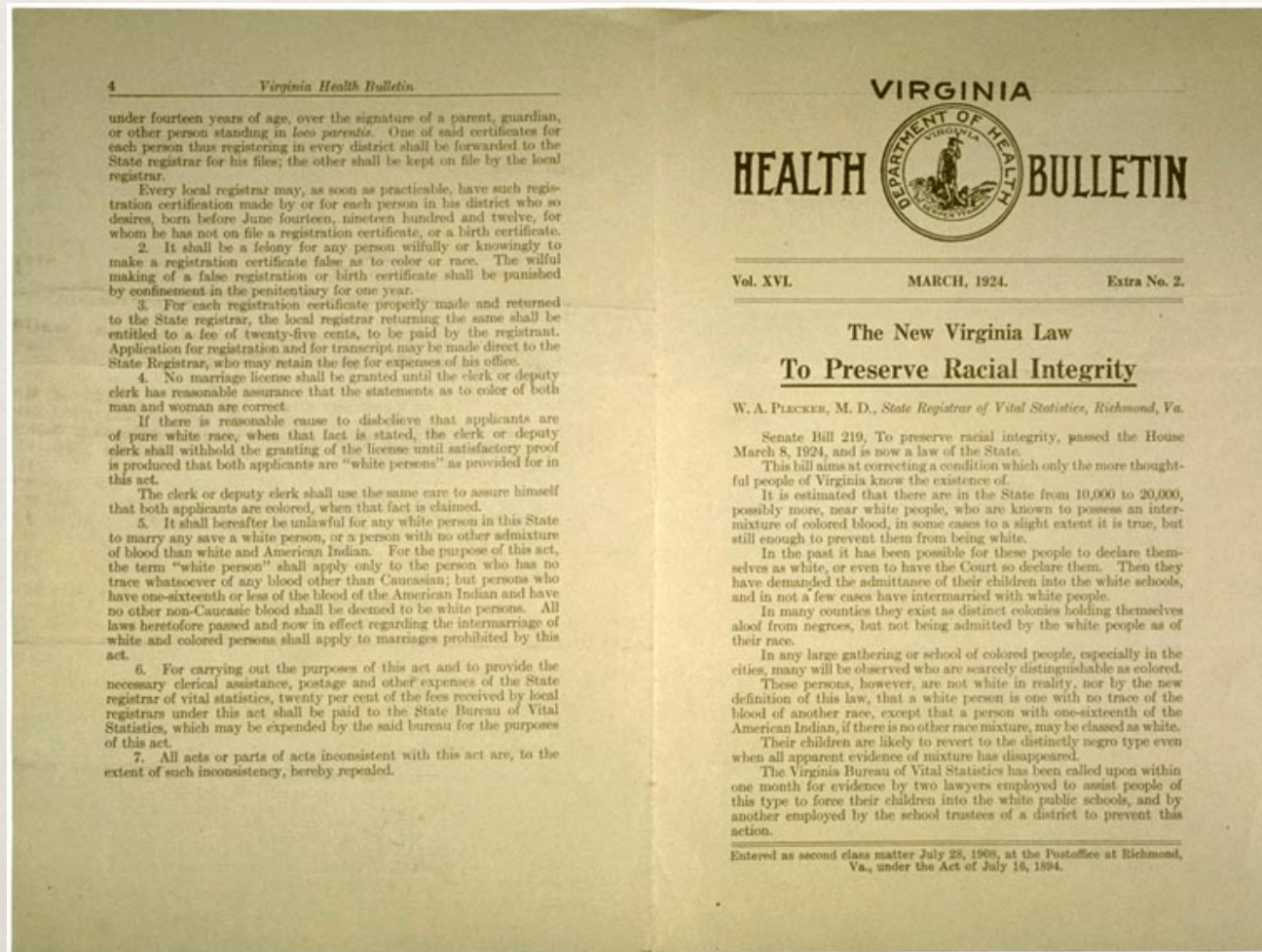


Administration of IQ Test to Immigrant
(Ellis Island, circa, 1913)



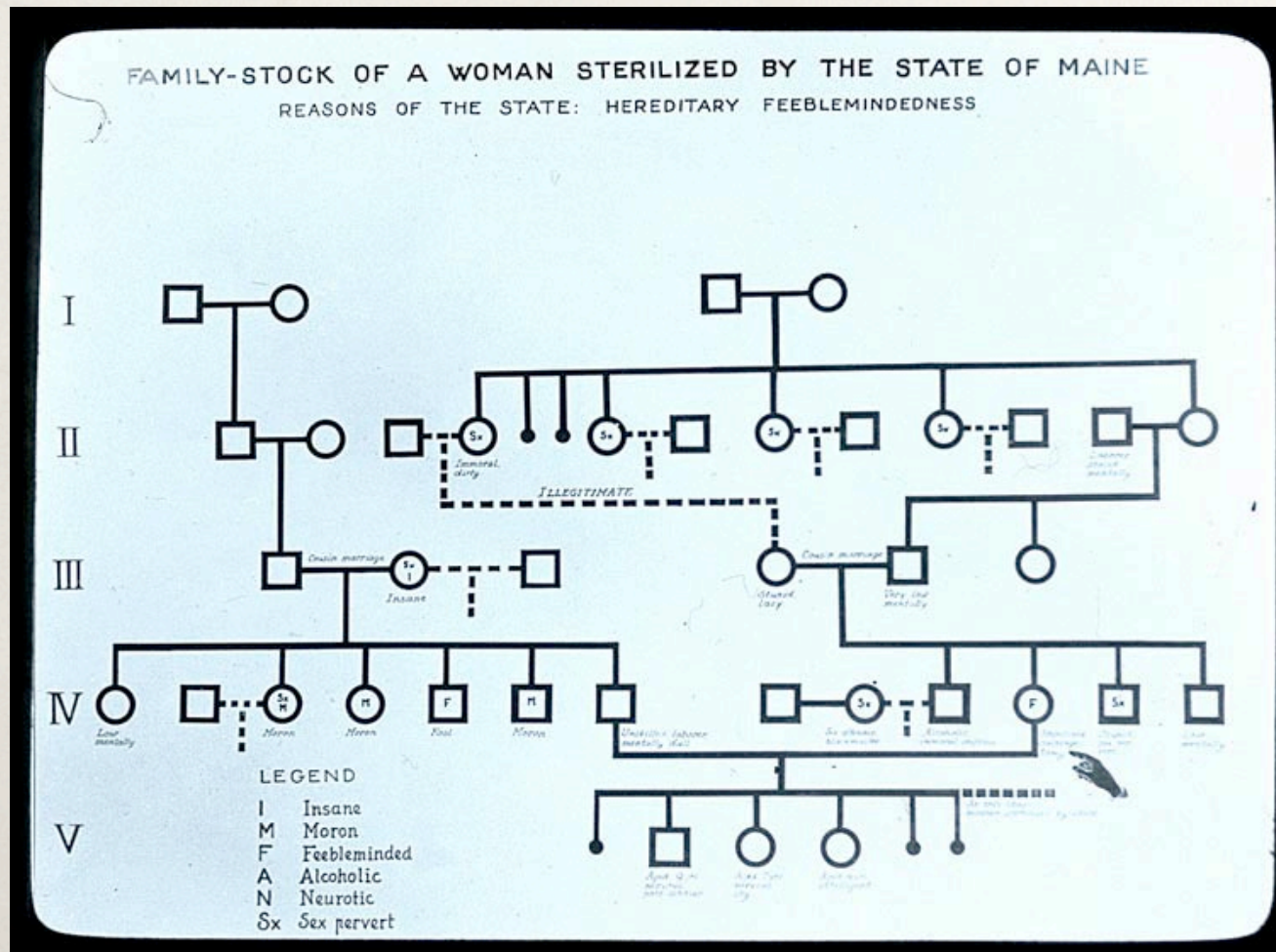
Beta IQ Test 5
(1917)

2. Anti-miscegenation laws – it was illegal in most States for people of different ethnicities to marry



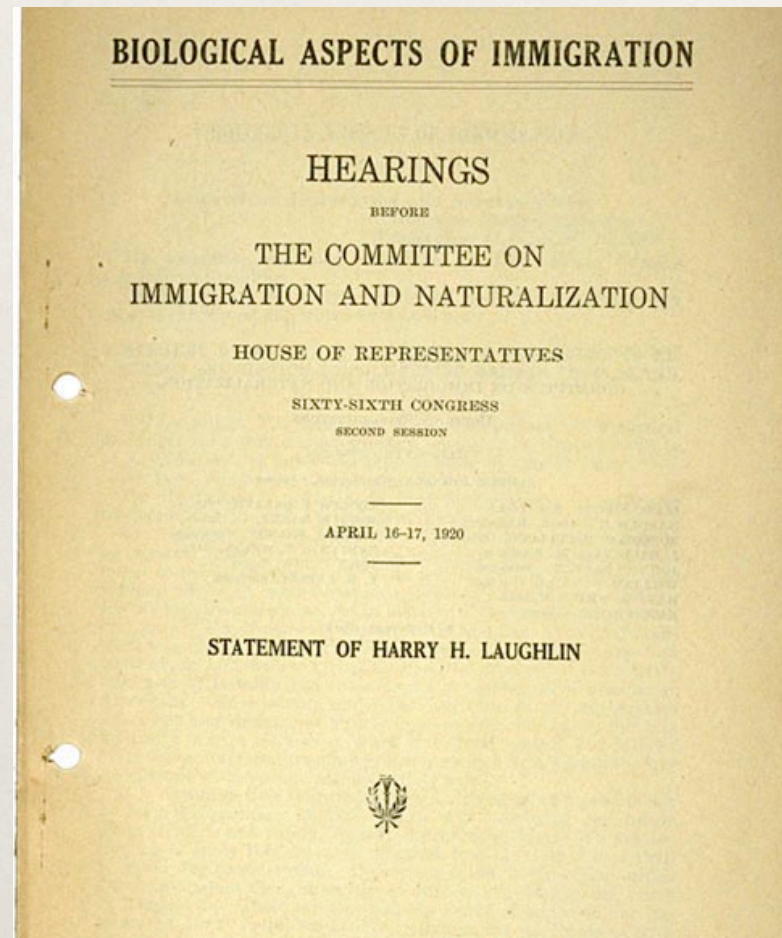
Virginia's Act to Preserve Racial Integrity (1924)

3. Forced sterilization – the state could order a “feeble-minded” person to have an operation so he or she could not have children



Pedigree Chart Used as Evidence for a State Sterilization (circa, 1935)

4. Immigration restrictions – Eugenics experts advised Congress to pass laws reducing the numbers of immigrants



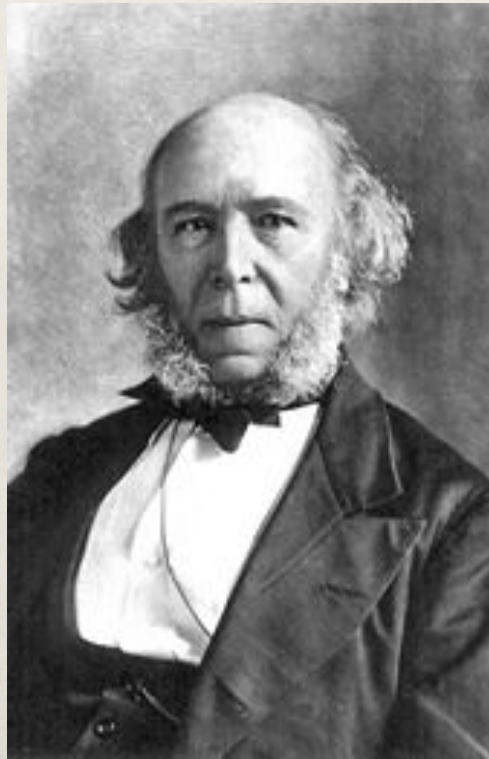
Transcript of “Expert Eugenics Adviser” testimony to
Committee On Immigration (1920)

B. Social Darwinism

Belief that the rich had risen to the top because they were the “fittest” – “natural”

Poor were poor because they were weak

Rich used this to justify position and business methods



C. Religious intolerance

Lack of understanding of other faiths caused fear
(ignorance → prejudice)

Anglos feared Catholics and Jews would come to
dominate; discriminated against them



D. Political Machines (also “City Machines”)

- ★ Organizations led by city “bosses” (power from bribes; fraud; graft; kickbacks)
- ★ won votes of immigrants (jobs, apts)
- ★ Hated by reformers (corruption; greed)





"THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER."

BOSS TWEED. "As long as I count the Votes, what are you going to do about it? say?"

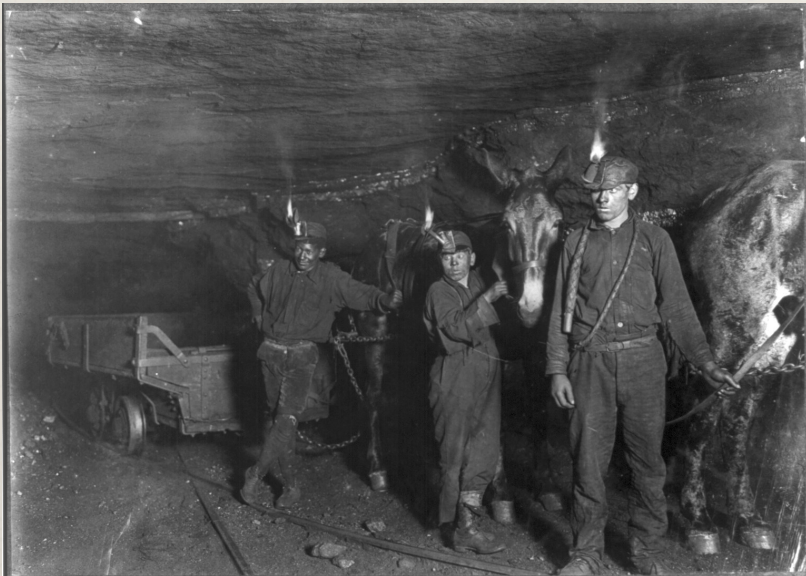
E. Immigrant customs

- * alcohol -- part of immigrant culture; social drinking was common; part of meals
- * Saloons -- social centers for immigrants, especially single men
- * Temperance workers – saw this as a social evil



F. Child Labor

- * immigrants – saw it as a necessity; wages were low, families were large and costs were high
- * reformers opposed it:
 - * kept wages low
 - * unhealthy for children
 - * prevented education of children



3. Americanization Movement:

- * 1890s plan to “Americanize” immigrants
- * huge educational movement; schools taught American values and traditions (like the Pledge of Allegiance)
- * Effect: generations of immigrants assimilated into American culture

