

## Questions related to Clarence Darrow on Eugenics

1. Why was doom hanging over the human race, and what did eugenicists claim was the solution to the crisis?
2. List five methods (four involve legislation) by which the solution could be achieved.
3. Identify the two fundamental obstacles with respect to breeding for intelligence.
4. What would be the economic problem with a world full of geniuses?
5. Describe Darrow's alarm regarding "the advocates of this new dream."
6. The Scopes Monkey Trial (1925) occurred the year before Darrow's anti-eugenics article was published. Darrow's objective while defending Scopes was to debunk the Bible as a scientific source on human origins and to support the teaching of evolution in the public schools. Scopes, the defendant due to Tennessee's recent passage of the Butler Act, had taught his high school class using Hunter's *Civic Biology* (1914), the best-selling text in the field. The textbook not only taught evolution but also eugenics, an aspect which did not come up during the Scopes trial and of which Darrow seems to have been unaware. The following is from *Civic Biology* on the topic of eugenics:

If such people [those producing disease, immorality, and crime] were lower animals, we would probably kill them off to prevent them from spreading. Humanity will not allow this, but we do have the remedy of separating the sexes in asylums or other places and in various ways preventing intermarriage and the possibilities of perpetuating such a low and degenerate race. Remedies of this sort have been tried successfully in Europe and are now meeting with success in this country (p. 263).

Do Hunter's comments jibe with Darrow's description of those who advocate eugenics?