

case of De Jong, a few years ago in Holland, first brought the matter prominently to their attention. De Jong was suspected of having murdered a number of women, and the Dutch judicial authorities proposed to hypnotise him in order to extract from him a confession or a clue to the murder. Such a use of hypnotism led to a great outcry in England and caused no little stir among lawyers here, although it was claimed at the time that a prominent detective agency had repeatedly applied the same methods.

Several civil cases growing out of hypnotic operations have come to our courts—one for alleged alienation of a wife's affections by means of hypnotic influence, and a number by parties hypnotized against their will. If any crimes are really committed by persons thus

under the influence of others, our system of criminal punishment for such, is, of course, accordingly unjust to all. But the facts doubtless are, as Dr. Charcot has claimed, that no cases of crime committed under direct hypnotic influence can be found outside of the books and laboratories. A criminal would not be likely to commit a crime by means of an irresponsible agent, who might and probably would lead him into pitfalls. There is doubtless something in indirect suggestion. If one man gazes at a church steeple the crowd will follow suit. If your companion yawn you will. So likewise one crime suggests another. But that fact cannot be expected to have much value as a defense for crime. If it had, every criminal in the country would go free.—*Chicago Law Journal*.

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