

the same thing as "disable," that is to say, less able to earn his full wages. Loss of portions of two fingers of the right hand would unquestionably, in certain callings, render a workman much less able to earn full wages. Regarded in that light, he would be both seriously and permanently disabled.—*Law Times*.

The subject is not a pleasant one to discuss; but it is important, and has attracted much attention in various countries. We learn from one of our English exchanges that Dr. Rentoul, in an address to the Psychological Society of the British American Medical Association again urges the importance of the surgical sterilization of the unfit. The remedy he calls for, with a view to render marriage unproductive in certain stated cases, is, he declares, simple and harmless, injuring neither the mental or the physical condition. It would not prevent marriage but would prevent the production of children. He gives some statistics shewing where five weak-minded, unmarried females had been delivered of fifteen idiot infants in a workhouse. Another doctor has pointed out that ninety-two habitual inebriate women had had eight hundred and fifty infants. As our contemporary remarks, "Naturally, in all sophisticated societies, drastic proposals of this sort filter slowly through the public conscience"; but we are told that in England there is a steadily growing feeling in their favour, and that they are now being discussed in France, Germany and Switzerland. It would appear, however, that the United States is the only country which has legislated upon the subject. An Act has been passed in the State of Indiana "to prevent procreation of confirmed criminals, idiots, imbeciles, and rapists—providing that superintendents or boards of managers of institutions, where such persons are confined, shall have the authority and are empowered to appoint a committee of experts, consisting of two physicians, to examine into the mental condition of such inmates." California has an enactment much to the same effect.