

but merely to point out to you that something might be done. If representatives from the medical schools would wish to speak to me on the subject, I shall be most happy to enter into further details. I am convinced, gentlemen, that something should be done, by which the general medical practitioner should have more knowledge than he now possesses of mental diseases.

Dr. Maudsley, speaking of the duty of the physician, says : “ Recognizing the obvious difference between him who *will not* and him who *cannot* fulfil the claims of the law, it is their function to point out the conditions of disease which constitute incapacity.”

Gentlemen, I am going to ask you to join with me to do that which Dr. Maudsley says it is our duty to do, therefore I will offer no apology for occupying a short portion of your time this evening in considering a question which I have brought, in one form or another, before you very frequently within the last four years. The Dominion Parliament is now about to assemble, therefore it is a proper time for this representative society to express its views, and ask for legislation to define the responsibility or irresponsibility of the criminal ; to ask the legislature to define, on some scientific ground, where responsibility ends and where irresponsibility begins. That society has a right to make laws for its own preservation, is a truth that no sane man can deny, but, that these laws should be based upon justice and benevolence is just as great a truth, which no sane man can deny. From the earliest history of law-makers down to the present day, we find that as mankind has progressed in scientific knowledge,—in fact, as man’s intellectual and moral faculties have become more developed, and man, in consequence, has progressed to a higher state of civilization, laws have been more generally based upon justice and benevolence. But, gentlemen, man is, as I have already said, a progressive animal ; all history, and science (which is more trustworthy), proves this fact. When we draw the difference between the peoples of the pre-historic age, and the peoples of the present day ; when we draw the distinction between the peoples of the historic age and the present day ; or, to come still closer, between the peoples of the