

way robbery. From an humble request for alms to a demand for your purse is but a step in begging evolution. In both cases the man wants something that is not his. There are three ways open to the human reason to gain it: earn it, beg it, seize it. The first method to a lazy man is absurd; to dig, many are ashamed. And the second, to beg, many regard it as too easy. And the last, to seize, many think to be the best of all—provided objections are not too strenuous. Therefore the highwayman is simply an advanced type of beggar! Nothing but an effective and drastic treatment will reduce the tramp nuisance to a minimum in our criminal population.

#### CANADIAN CRIMINOLOGY.

It is strange that the disbelief in the possibility of amendment on the part of the criminal should be so deep-seated and universal. Men and women, equally guilty before law, human and divine, but who have not been exposed to the contamination and shame of prison life, have abandoned their evil courses in response to influences exerted upon them in free life. There have been many signal instances of transformation of character and conduct occurring in prison. It would be foolish to estimate the exact percentage of corrigible and incorrigible convicts or to shut our eyes to the persistence of the criminal type of character, or to expect from the average prisoner anything more than he shall cease to be a law-breaker and become a law-abiding citizen. Religion encourages this hope, so does science, as I shall now proceed to show:

The methods and achievements of science have profoundly modified metaphysical thought, so that a new word, psychophysics, has been admitted to the dictionaries. In the psychophysical study of human nature there is a constant recognition of the vital relation between mental experiences in the operations of the brain and of the nervous system in man, of their interdependence and reciprocal relations and influence. The researches of physiologists have shed light on much that was formerly obscure in the anatomical structure and functions of the body. We have learned that every mental impression and perception, every act of memory, of the imagination, of the judgment, of the will, every passing thought or emotion, is accompanied in this life, the only life of which we have experimental knowledge, by molecular changes in nerve tissue, by nervous activity and emotion. The paths followed in the accumulation and discharge of nerve force have been partially