

purpose it may be stated in brief as due to our social and commercial habits, and also to environment—which is perhaps embraced in the former circumstances, or is, at least, their logical product.

For example: We go to great pains to say that minors shall not be allowed to enter into matrimony, while the veriest criminal, the subject of neglected venereal disease, the subject with more than a suspicion of insanity in his family history, is freely permitted to take out a marriage license—that he may be free to procreate at will as many children as he likes! children which nothing but a miracle can prevent from becoming in their turn, if not vicious and criminal, at least nervous incompetents. Insurance societies take great care in the selection of “risks”; what precaution does society take to safeguard its ranks? We take no little pains in developing the finest breeds of cattle and horses, while at the same time the hands of the church are uplifted in blessing over human mental, moral and physical derelicts, with the solemn (?) injunction, “Whom God hath joined, let no man put asunder”! And at the same time we are spending hundreds of thousands for the uplifting of the heathen, while crime grows more rampant in our midst, and disease walks abroad unashamed!

The public press informs us there were something like seven or eight cases of criminal assault at the recent assizes held in this city. One of these criminal monsters not only assaulted a little girl of five, but also infected her with gonorrhea, for which he received a term of two years’ imprisonment and the lash! ! What effect, in the name of shuddering humanity, could such a sentence have in the way of reforming a brute of this type? Might as well slap him on the wrist! The judge is helpless in such a case, for he may only inflict such punishment as the law allows. Meanwhile the populace sits smugly by and does nothing,—or, at most, says “how terrible!” Meanwhile, also, the scum of the earth marry and beget criminals or lunatics, which are carefully reared and in due time are housed in prisons and asylums at our expense!