

mercantile class, and regarded the mental and moral condition of the individuals belonging to it as dependent absolutely on their physical organization. Hayvern was not responsible for his act; it was not premeditated, but performed under the influence of an uncontrollable impulse; and he thought that there was evidence to show that it may have been connected with the epileptic neurosis.

Dr. Hingston wanted to know how it was, if viciousness and crime were the product of defective cerebral organization, that some notoriously wicked men had reformed and lived sober and honourable lives? Was it probable that with such a change there was any alteration in the structure of the brain?

Dr. Cameron thought that, for Benedikt's conclusions to have any value, it must be shown that criminals have invariably atypical brains and all other people normal ones. Most criminals have some degree of control over their actions, and the law is an effectual deterrent in many instances, particularly where the penalty enacted touches the person. He illustrated the rapid abolition of garroting by the introduction of the lash, and quoted facts to show the good effects of capital punishment.

Dr. Shepherd remarked that it was somewhat difficult to say what was the typical brain. The majority of observations were upon the lower classes; we lacked data as to the arrangement of the fissures and convolutions in a large number of the intellectual members of society. He had frequently seen brains of the confluent fissure type in the dissecting-room.

Dr. Mills said that, with reference to the series of brains from hospital patients examined by Dr. Osler, the question arises as to how far such patients belong to the criminal class. In about one thousand patients that he had observed closely, he did not think that many of them ranked in this class.

Dr. Osler, in reply to Dr. Howard's question, stated that the series of brains which he had examined were nearly all preserved by Giacomini's method, and no data existed from which the social status of the individuals could be ascertained. In the 43 hemispheres (19 perfect brains and 5 halves), 19 presented one or more atypical features.