

by the capacity and condition of its instrument, the body, and the facility with which it can do so depends upon its mastery of that body. A person may have the requisite temperament and all the innate abilities of a gifted vocalist; but if he has not a voice of the required range and flexibility, how can he sing so as to command admiration? Again, though he may also have the vocal capacity, and have not his voice trained to express all the delicate inflexions of feeling and modulations of sound, in complete accord with the creative faculties of his mind, how shall he not but misrepresent his interior concepts in their outward expression? The instrument must be adapted to the needs of the performer before he can execute the purpose of his will.

If, therefore, it be the Karma of an individual to be identified with a brain deformed by hereditary influences, he finds himself linked to an imperfect instrument, which only sluggishly and inadequately responds to the volition of his will and distorts the ideas it cannot be made to express intelligibly. In such a case, he is doomed to exist on the physical plane as an idiot for that life, manifesting so little of his powers and true identity as to raise his body but slightly above that of the brute.

Insanity is brought about by a derangement of the brain, which, as with the idiot, so circumscribes and misinterprets the mind as to reproduce in grotesque parody, if at all, the intentions of the mind connected with that brain.

In partial insanity, a very trivial obstruction may interfere with the normal function of the brain, just as the tension of a string in a violin may produce a false note, or as with the proverbial "rift in the lute." A surgical operation may relieve the affected part and restore the patient to his normal condition; but in no case is the mind itself affected—it is only its organ that is impaired or made whole.

As nothing happens by chance, insanity, in all its forms, is also the penalty of wrong-doing, either here or heretofore.

#### TRANSMIGRATION.

Reincarnation and Metempsychosis are sometimes confounded with the synonymous term, Transmigration. If these terms are taken to mean one and the same idea, as they really do, there need be no fear of confusion; but if transmigration is understood to mean the passing after death of the immortal Ego into the body of an animal, bird or reptile, then a wide distinction must be made between a term that implies the doctrine in its purity and another that may convey the concept of a degraded corruption of the original teaching. Nothing but a gross distortion of this doctrine has ever postulated a retrogression of man into the animal kingdom. Once a man, the trend of human evolution is ever upward and onward in the direction of divinity. Occasional retardation or deviation from a direct line of progression may ensue, as the result of either wilful or ignorant transgression of the laws of his being; but Nature does not suffer a man to undo the evolution of millions of years.