

or more terms of imprisonment. Dr. Hickson emphasizes this view:

"Recidivism is much the crux of the whole criminological situation, while at one and the same time it is the most illuminating and also most discouraging symptom, in that it shews the hopelessness of our present methods of dealing with crime, and that, therefore, there must be something fundamentally wrong because it confirms our findings that the underlying cause of the vast majority of cases is an incurable hereditary constitutional mental defectiveness."

He calls attention, however, to the difficulty arising from the absence of the quality of helpfulness in the Bar in relation to this very point. He says:

"Many of these suggestions may seem to be, or are, in conflict with present laws, but we want to go on record as having the highest respect for the law, and appreciation of its *raison d'être*, especially where it is based on intelligent premises, even though it be not always perfect, so long as the bases on which it is founded are the last word obtainable on the subject. We think one of the big mistakes that is being propagated in the law, especially in the matter of what is known as forensic psychiatry, is that practically all the efforts of committees and individuals that have been working for betterment in this field have made the existing laws basic to their efforts as though they were the most scientific and advanced development in the various correlated sciences that underlie them, as though they were the last word on the subject, the *Ultima Thule*. As a matter of fact, they are quite the contrary, and thus we see them striving and straining, twisting and turning, struggling to square up modern scientific knowledge with the archaic and obsolete encumbrances of spirit and tradition of the ancients, to bring the newer scientific knowledge into harmony with the old largely unscientific accumulation, as though men were made for laws and not the laws for men, as though they were above and beyond men and not of and for men."

I cannot refrain from quoting from an enthusiast who has spent much time in the Criminal Courts of a large city in the endeavour to introduce some such reform as I have been discussing. He says:

"Judges, lawyers and policemen—men who have lived long under the conservative influences of law—all come from Missouri. They 'have to be shewn.' And they have to be shewn, not once