

a few years we should apply the same principles to raising the next generation of citizens that we apply to raising the next crop of wheat or our next crop of hogs. A farmer who raises stock for the money there is in it would be condemned by his neighbors as 'cracked' if he voluntarily permitted his runts to reproduce themselves, or refused to apply to his business all he knew or could learn about artificial selection of the best. But we as a people go on year after year allowing our physical and mental and moral runts to reproduce themselves ad libitum and then wonder why crime does not decrease faster. In government we seem to imagine that the criminal has as much right to reproduce his kind as has the virtuous, and that to restrain him would infringe his rights. This is true only if we admit that the rights of the individual outweigh those of society, and that the rights of crime are equal to the rights of decency and virtue. The runt as progenitor of a species may be eliminated by simply isolating him and not permitting him to multiply and replenish the earth. We may treat him with kindness, as we are responsible for his existence, but we may also say, in self-defence, we do not want and will not have any more of your kind. Let some wise legislator devise some way of applying to human beings the rational principles that are already followed by the departments of biology and animal life and breed our criminals out instead of continuing to breed them into our national and social life."

Something more practical, however, than this is wanted; and Dr. Rentoul is on hand with something very definite in the way of a remedy. The details of it, however, are more fit for discussion in a medical than in a legal journal. His remedy would not interfere with marriage, but would render marriage unproductive amongst the degenerates in a physical sense. He would induce sterilization in the lunatic, the confirmed inebriate, the epileptic, and others of that class, and would not omit those who are confirmed tramps and vagarants and known to be such to workhouse officials and to the police.

This is rather a startling proposition but the statements regarding degeneracy of the race are equally startling. If we read history aright, the healthiest, the cleanest and most vigorous nation that the world has ever seen were the people that crossed the Jordan under Joshua, after having been subjected for nearly half a century