

was permitted to walk about the asylum grounds. It appears that he was in the habit of going home on some occasions, and also calling at his daughter's home. His wife was afraid of him and dreaded these visits.

On one occasion he left the asylum grounds and visited his daughter's home. He appeared to be a good deal excited. He left his daughter's house and visited his own home, where he found his wife in and engaged at her usual household duties. He shot her twice through the head. Immediately afterwards he shot himself twice through the head. The first shot did not cause him to fall, and he fired again into his own head. The murdered wife bore an excellent character by all who knew her.

The Coroner's Jury which heard the evidence in this case, after the usual verdict as to the cause of death in these two cases, added the following clauses:

"The jury consider that sufficient care was not exercised by the asylum authorities to prevent the aforesaid Gustave Merkt from leaving the grounds, and censures the management for permitting a criminal insane patient to run at large.

"The jury strongly recommend that proper provision be made in connection with the new Central Prison at Guelph, now in course of erection, for the safe custody of the criminal insane."

We very heartily concur in the views of the jury. It is impossible to be too careful. Some of the most terrible tragedies have been committed by the insane who appeared to be mild and with very little of the dangerous propensities in them. But under this apparent mildness there often lurks a very dangerous unseen current. The language of Macbeth,

Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow?

is still true. There is often for these people a rooted sorrow such as haunted the mind of Macbeth when he exclaimed:

Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain.

What false creations may arise in the brains of the insane no one can determine. Therefore, if it behooves those charged with the custody of the insane to be careful.