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MENTAL AGE OF OUR CRIMINALS

They Should be Studied from
the Standpoint of Mental
Science.

To the Editor of The Times:

Sir:—The Telegraph of May 16th printed a short article in which it was stated that the minister of justice made the remark, in answer to a question in the House, that there were in the penitentiaries of Canada eighteen inmates of the age of sixteen, sixty-three of the age of seventeen, and eighty-seven of the age of eighteen. It would be not only interesting but useful and enlightening from a sense of justice could he have also told us the different mental ages of these boys, which in the vast majority of cases is found to be some eight or ten years younger than the chronological age. This applies not only to these youths of adolescent years but to a vast number of criminals of all ages, both adults and children, who are filling our penitentiaries, jails, reformatories, almshouses, homes of correction and in fact all our penal institutions, and it is the opinion of the majority, if not all those who have had to do with the examination of this class that the cause of justice can only be fulfilled by the proper examination of all criminals before being sentenced. There is no doubt about it that these persons of low mental age, as well as those of low mental quotient, have not been sent to our penal institutions for punishment. In fact the question arises if these cases should even have to go to trial? Would not the cause of justice be better served if such unfortunate individuals were placed in some institution, as a psychopathic hospital, so that they might be watched and studied and a report of their condition be submitted to the judge under whose jurisdiction the case in question came? Many of these cases which are defective are tried and sentenced because, in the restricted vision of our present law, they are supposed to know right, from, so called wrong and perhaps even know the nature of their act; and yet on account of their abnormal mentality, we cannot in the light of modern psychology, hold them responsible for the act committed which is the result of a congenital condition.

There is no doubt about it that in a vast number of cases we are now punishing individuals whose mental capacities have never been able to develop beyond the years of early childhood, really but children. And it will only be when we begin to examine our criminals that we will be able to come to any just conclusions as to the injustice we as a nation have been imposing on these mental defectives. Of course it will be necessary in the interests of justice that statutory changes be made for the ordinary civil cases, and all the more important and necessary for those cases where the life or liberty of the individual is at stake.

While it is true that British law and British justice is founded to a great measure on precedent, still in following our authorities on medical jurisprudence we find a great difference of opinion, unrest and expressed doubt as to the justice and wisdom of the present law that is being followed, and we find evidence of this fact in many of the decisions given in cases of testamentary capacity or incapacity and also in many cases of criminal responsibility.

I think I am right in stating that for over forty years there has been no change whatever made in the laws of our medico-legal jurisprudence as far as our mental defectives are concerned, either in England or Canada. But the sciences of psychology and psychology have made grand strides in that time, wonderful advances in the last ten years. In fact this period about covers all the great discoveries in mental medicine and I dare say that no branch of medicine or department of science has made so great a progress in these years. And this work is no longer merely experimental, but is now an exact science and its findings are both accurate and scientific, as much so as those of any other branch of science, and it can aid authority in the dispensing of justice to our fellow man it should be so employed.

How much responsibility can we put on a child of ten years, and how many of our adult criminals have but a ten year mentality? And who is responsible, that such conditions, as those cited continue to exist in the age of advanced civilization, and how much longer will they be suffered to exist? The criminality of a community and its social standards. What are we going to do? The opportunity is ever present. The chance of obtaining knowledge is ready. The pathway is well defined. The overpowering facts are calling aloud for our action. I am confident that the time is not far distant when the public, the "average citizen", will clearly understand that these people I have been speaking of are mentally diseased, that they are sick persons, needing hospital and expert care and understanding and not a jail, nor asylum. I repeat, these persons are sick and deserve the same consideration and care, and as little disgrace as a person who is sick with pneumonia or some other illness.

We but rationalize our own, perhaps unconscious, feelings when we group these individuals as "criminal", "bad", "clean", or "dirty", "excited", or "quiet", and according to the label attached shut them up in some of our already overcrowded penal institutions.

Yours,
S. STANLEY KING

PRESENTATION TO THE U. N. B.

Fredericton, May 18.—At the convocation of the University of New Brunswick this afternoon Dr. J. C. Webster, of Shediac, on behalf of Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, presented to the university library a rare old print showing Fredericton in its early days. Dr. Webster is a cousin of Sir Frederick.

During the convocation exercises it was announced that the subject for the English essay in the competition for the Douglas gold medal for 1922 was "The Influence of Wild Life Reserves and National Parks Upon a Nation's Life."

The subject for the Latin prose translation for the alumni gold medal for 1922 is not yet known. It will be forwarded from St. John by Dr. H. S. Bridges within the next few days.

The city of Fredericton medal will be given in the department of civil engineering in 1923. The subject announced is "Water-Power vs. Steam-Power as a Source of Light and Power for the City of Fredericton."

Week-End and Holiday SPECIALS

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Ties and Oxfords,
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Outing Shoes and Sneak-
ers for whole family at
Special Holiday Prices.

250 POLICEMEN IN MAN HUNT HOLD UP TRAFFIC

New York, May 19.—In one of the most spectacular burglar hunts in the history of the city 150 uniformed policemen and 100 detectives for more than seven hours held a cordon around the block of Broadway and Fifth avenue and searched lofts, roofs and yards in quest of criminals whom detectives had trailed to one of the buildings.

The hunt began a little after 6 o'clock in the evening when Acting Captain John Stapleton and a half dozen detectives of the Safe and Loft Squad searched the block of Broadway and Fifth avenue. The detectives had received a "tip" that burglars had planned to rob several lofts occupied by silk merchants, and were concealed in neighboring doorways when the three robbers entered the building.

Captain Stapleton and two of his detectives then slipped over to the building, after having arranged with the other detectives to guard front and rear of the building as well as the roof.

Most of the persons employed in lofts in the building had left for the day, but the detectives began their search, after having arranged with the other detectives to guard front and rear of the building as well as the roof.

By the time the detectives had reached the top floor they decided the three suspects had entered one of the lofts by means of a pass key, and then they began a telephone to the different merchants to return to the building and aid them in their search. It was not until three hours later that the first of the merchants appeared. By that time Acting Captain Stapleton had telephoned for the reserves to the West Thirtieth

and the East Thirtieth street station. Squads of extra detectives also were summoned from every precinct on the east and west sides.

When the policemen and detectives began to arrive on the scene in patrol wagons and automobiles, a crowd of 3,000 persons gathered. Captain Howard arrived with the reserves from the West Thirtieth street station, and Captain John Mason headed the reserves from the East Thirtieth street station. They immediately threw a cordon around the block, shutting off vehicular and pedestrian traffic on all four thoroughfares.

FIVE YEARS FOR BOYS BUT SENTENCE IS SUSPENDED

Three juveniles were brought before Judge W. B. Jones at Hampton yesterday, under the speedy trials act, charged with breaking and entering summer cottages in Hothouse and the vicinity. Several witnesses were examined and the boys pleaded guilty to the charge. Canon A. W. Daniel and Rev. Dr. W. R. Hubbard, principal of Hothouse Collegiate School, interceded on behalf of the boys. After looking into the case, Judge Jones sentenced the boys to five years' imprisonment, but permitted the sentence to stand against them. The judge commended Provincial Constable Robert Crawford on his promptness in dealing with the matter and clearing up the case.

THE C. N. R. DEFICIT

Ottawa, May 18.—In the house today Hon. W. C. Kennedy, minister of railways, announced that the actual total deficit last year on the Canadian National system, including the G. T. P., C. N. R., C. G. R. and G. T. was \$72,662,278.16 and the amount of the previous year was \$74,375,315.

Commissioner Wigmore spent yesterday afternoon on the west side in an inspection of the water system on that side of the harbor. He examined particularly the main line recently in Tower and Charlotte streets. The commissioner said last evening that the service over there seemed to be very satisfactory.



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THE BELVEA FUND

It would have done Hilton Belyea's heart good to have been at the City Hall, W. C., last evening to see the enthusiastic manner in which the Royal Baseball Club and their friends entertained more than 800 of an audience in aid of the fund to allow Hilton win highest honors in the racing world for old St. John. The programme, which was lengthy, was surprisingly good and was presented in a most commendable manner. A feature was several original songs, written and composed by Professor McCallum, all touching on the Royals and their activities. Mention must also be made of Professor McCallum's accompanying. He was at the piano during the programme and performed remarkably well.

Toward the end of the entertainment J. C. Chouler, president of the St. John Rowing Club, made a few remarks, in which he thanked the efficient committee in charge and also the Royal club for staging the first public effort in aid of the benefit fund. He said he had received word from Philadelphia, concerning Hilton and that the champion was doing well. "There is no doubt in my mind that he is going to win that race," he declared, amid rounds of applause. He announced that he had cabled Hilton's entry for the Diamond Scull trophy yesterday.

H. F. Bushman was chairman for the evening and the programme list was as follows: Opening chorus; solo, K. Burns; reading, L. Middleton; solo, Mrs. W. Mayers; solo, Miss Stella Burns; solo, Miss K. Price; solo, W. Currie; piano solo, Professor McCallum; solo, L. Middleton; duet, the Misses Boyd; solo, Mrs. L. Morris; solo, Mrs. Treadwell; solo, Mrs. F. Lesley; solo, little Molly Leale; saxophone solo, George Stewart; duet, Miss Helen Burns and Professor McCallum; solo by Robert Roach, Mrs. A. Middleton; Miss B. Price; specialty, Miss J. Price; closing chorus.

BRITISH BUDGET SHOWS REDUCTION

The estimate by the British Chancellor of the Exchequer of expenditure of £10,000,000 in the present fiscal year, if realized, give Great Britain the first budget of less than a billion since the beginning of the war.

In the fiscal year ending March 31, 1915, British expenditures totalled £263,000,000, but, thereafter, the expenditures increased rapidly until in the year ending March 31, 1919, they amounted to about five times the expenditure in the first war year.

When British national spending was at its high level in 1917-1918, £2,403,000,000 or more than 80 per cent of the total was for military purposes. The reduction annually in British government expenditures since the end of the war is indicated by the following figures received by the Bankers Trust Company of New York, from its English Information Service:

British Government Expenditures

Million Pounds
Fiscal year.
1917-18 (March 31) £2,697
1918-19 (March 31) 2,579
1919-20 (March 31) 1,666
1920-21 (March 31) 1,195
1921-22 (March 31) 1,079
1922-23 (March 31) (estimated) 910

Military expenditure was reduced to £1,460,000,000 or about 67 per cent of the total in the first peace year. In the first peace year. In the present fiscal year the preliminary estimates for army, navy and air force call for £137,000,000, or about 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure.

ROCKWOOD PARK VISITORS WARNED

Notices are to be placarded in Rockwood Park today with the following legend, in big black letters on white calico: "To the public. This property is for your use. Be careful of your matches, cigars, cigarettes and pipe ashes." The notices have been prepared by a member of the horticultural society and the material and the printing have been given by two city firms. The necessity for such notices was only too plainly demonstrated by the recent fires which disfigured a large tract of land in the Park that will take fully twenty-five years to recover from the fire damage. A carelessly thrown match may cause the scarring and damaging of a tract of land or it may destroy the whole Park. In Rockwood Park the citizens of St. John have a place of recreation which would be the envy of any city on the continent and the great majority of citizens take just pride in it, yet it is by no means unusual for the wardens to find smouldering fires in the grass and brush which have been caused by careless smokers or picnickers.

The notices are to be placed conspicuously so that it is hoped that they will remind the public to protect what it enjoys. Those who cannot safeguard the Park from fire destruction should be debarred from using it, one of the directors said yesterday.

Cuticura Soap The Safety Razor Shaving Soap

Cuticura Soap is the only shaving soap that is safe for the skin.

W. C. T. U. CONCERT.

The annual concert held last evening at the Star Theatre under the auspices of the W. C. T. U., was largely attended and all present enjoyed a splendid entertainment. Alexander Brown presided and the programme passed off very successfully. The first half of the programme consisted of: Piano solo, Miss Dolly Leale; saxophone solo, John McEachern, William Clarke, William Wheaton and Henry McEachern; reading, Miss Pearl Taylor; vocal solo,

Miss Hilda Williams; instrumental quartette, the Silsons; violin solo, Miss May Betts. The second part of the entertainment took the form of a minstrel show, with James McEachern as interlocutor. The McEachern quartette sang several selections during the performance and solos were given by William McEachern, Archibald Trecartin, John McEachern, William Clarke, William Wheaton and Henry McEachern; a mandolin and accordion duet by Wil-

liam McEachern and A. Trecartin. The pianist for the evening was Miss Mary C. Kirkpatrick. During the intermission candy was sold by the young ladies. At the conclusion of the entertainment the performers were treated to refreshments in the library of the building.

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