

If we can rely upon our statistics, the percentage of both the idiotic and insane is on the increase, and it is high time that a serious effort should be made to remedy this condition of things. Not only the feeble-minded, but those who are insane, should be treated by sterilization. It is monstrous to allow these unfortunates to hand down their mental defects to the coming generation.

The chronic criminal might also be very well subjected to a similar procedure. The fact that this treatment would be meted out to him might act as a very good deterrent to crime, and would, at all events, prevent these from begetting children with like tendencies.

We are not in so great need of securing an increase of population even in this Dominion of Canada, that we should welcome those who present such defects, whether they come from abroad or are produced by ourselves at home. I know of a case where a young man was an inmate for two or three years of a lunatic asylum, and soon after his release married, and has already had six or seven children born to him within a period of ten or eleven years. Are we foolish enough to shut our eyes to these things and stand idly by without even making a single effort to prevent their occurrence?

The longer this breeding of the degenerates goes on the more difficult of course it will be to deal with it, and we think it is high time that the matter should receive the serious consideration it deserves both by the medical profession and the general public and I trust that these few remarks may be productive of good by calling attention to the need of such consideration.

A BRIEF RESUME OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY.*

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THAT the study of the various manifestations of mental alienation dates back to the earliest times need not be emphasized, and without recalling any names antedating him, it need only be mentioned that Galen described one type of disease, which in its essential features was not unlike the picture described by Georget, an eminent French alienist of the early nineteenth century: in his picture were certain features which are incorporated in one of the forms of the now well known condition *Dementia præcox*.

When one thus considers that psychiatry had its beginning at such a remote date, it seems hardly credible that so little progress was made in so many decades. To trace the historical development through all the

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