

He publishes a pamphlet advocating the sterilization of certain mental and physical degenerates. This pamphlet contains a candid statement of a condition of affairs, physical and mental, which he alleges is rapidly becoming worse. He tells us that "we are engaged in the apparently pleasant manufacture of lunatics and others of this class. Our asylums and like places are practically manufactories for degenerates; and he asks, "How long does the public propose that these things shall go on?"

Figures are given to show that in England, in 1901, one in every 301 is an officially notified lunatic, in Scotland one in every 247, in Ireland, one in every 206. Our statistics show for Canada, are also large. There are of course a large number of lunatics and idiots who do not appear in any returns. Statistics also show that of the many lunatics and other degenerates who were discharged from certain asylums in England from 1895 to 1903 as cured, nearly half of them were returned again. Obviously these cases were not cured at all, but all the same they had a year or so in which to enter into or resume the relations of marriage. "It would be less dangerous," observes Dr. Rentoul, "to send out among the public, persons cured of small pox or plague, without first having disinfected their clothes." It was stated in the House of Lords, as a proof of the degeneracy of the British population, that fully fifty per cent. of the candidates for the navy are rejected for physical causes. As to our charitable institutions it is asserted that very many of them are working indirectly for the survival of the unfit; and the trouble is that this class reproduce themselves as industriously as do the healthy ones.

The subject is undoubtedly a difficult as well as a delicate one. A remedy has been suggested which has already found its way into some systems of law, and it is that no one should be allowed to marry without having first obtained leave so to do from some governmental board, after a rigid examination. This, however, manifestly would only be a partial remedy.

The *Law Notes* argues it out in this way: The government spends large sums in investigating the cause and cure of diseases among animals and plants and how to produce the best results, but has spent nothing in this line as regards the securing a profitable species of the human being. The writer then continues: "We have often tried to consider what would be the result if for