

several offences in a minor degree. For a jail bird to marry is only to produce jail birds. These have to be fed, and the honest worker, in the last analysis of things, pays the bills.

One criminal woman in London, England, became the ancestor of over one hundred degenerate or criminal descendants. This cost a good deal in the courts of law, the jails, the poor houses, etc. At the recent meeting of the Association of Canadian Charities and Correction the subject of undesirable marriages was discussed at some length, and a resolution unanimously adopted asking the Government to take up this matter.

We hope some definite steps will be taken in this matter. It is task enough to deal with the degenerates that arise among us as the result of disease and injuries, but it is altogether too much to expect the community to allow the production of those to go on unrestrained, and then be expected to foot the bills.

Some test should be exacted before marriage licenses can be issued, and then some strict regulations should be imposed upon the clergy to prevent the performance of the marriage ceremony if it should appear that either party is unfit to enter upon the married state. Many clergymen act according to this rule now.

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#### HOSPITALS AND CITY LIFE.

Hospitals are now important centres of education. They are places in which many medical men meet on common and friendly terms. In this way a steady process of education is going through the interchange of views on diseases of all sorts. Every hospital in the country should have in connection with it a medical society for the discussion of diseases and the reading of papers. There should also be a reference library in each hospital for the use of the staff, and the physicians of the locality. This is one of the ways by which our hospitals may do a vast amount of good work.

Then, again, hospitals are places for the education of the public. Patients and their friends who visit these institutions imbibe much useful knowledge which they carry away with them, and which must influence their future on sanitary matters and the care of the sick. This aspect of the work of the hospitals throughout the country is having a widespread effect for good. The many instructions given to patients and their friends on the care of the sick, the treatment of wounds, the prevention of disease, and the spread of infection, are carried far beyond the confines of the hospital walls.

There is another way in which hospitals are doing a great work. There is continuously passing through these institutions class after