

exists is based upon the idea that there are only two classes in the community, viz.: those who are normal and those who are out-and-out insane. That there is a middle class is unfortunately only too true, but our laws regarding them are conspicuous by their absence and those who are connected with institutions or conditions which have to reckon with feeble-minded find themselves hampered at every turn. The fact is that there is no law applicable and that they are compelled to treat feeble-minded children and adults as normal. Nor has there been any effort to take advantage of the provisions for special classes in our schools. Consequently normal children in the schools are held back and the work is disorganized by the presence of a few who, if taken out of the ordinary classes and put into special classes would themselves be happy and would leave the rest of the school in peace and quietness. This subject alone is one in which much could be done, and it would be a very worthy act if our profession were to take it up and add to its duties that of securing a body of law capable of allowing the care of the feeble-minded to rest upon the secure basis of prevention rather than of after care.

The law of responsibility for crime, restricted now to the insane, should be studied and its application to mental defectiveness in its various aspects needs careful remodelling and restatement.

Other topics may occur to you, such as the law regarding motors and motor traffic, which is now becoming a very serious and important one, both in regard to the doctrine of criminal and civil negligence, also as to municipal duties, road making and traffic regulation. There is also the sale of goods, divorce, good roads and a host of other interesting topics to find occupations for alert minds. But it is not my purpose so much to dwell in detail upon many of the matters in which we all agree that reforms and alterations are necessary, as to impress upon you the fact that the profession of law stands as a sort of counter-balance in many social and semi-political movements. The members of that profession are educated: they are taught the value of facts and the necessity for accurate information: they are familiar with the need of fair play in all transactions of life and are therefore well equipped to deal with any subject with caution and discretion. They have not,