

"In London the police and the great stores have a list of people known to be kleptomaniacs—all of whom are people of wealth—about eight or ten hundred in number. When a merchant finds that he has lost something by theft, he ascertains the names of those of his kleptomaniac clients who have visited his place within the previous day or so, and to each of these he sends a circular requesting that they forward to him at once the missing article in question or the price. The kleptomaniac does not remember whether she has stolen or not; she pays at once, therefore, to ease her awakened conscience. It so happens, therefore, that for the same theft as many as ten families will indemnify one of these great stores."

In the discussion that followed Prof. Lacassagne's paper, Motet, the distinguished French alienist, said:

"It is possible for us to draw the line between the kleptomaniac and the shoplifter, if we know the value of the object stolen. The professional thieves scorn all articles save those of some value, but the true kleptomaniac picks up things of trifling cost in comparison. When detected they say with undoubted sincerity, 'It seemed to me as if everything belonged to me—I might have taken all.'

"These thieves are the mentally unbalanced, whose minds are slightly touched by disease. Here the intervention of medicine is legitimate. We have asked many times for a law compelling the appointment of inspectors in the great stores, whose business it shall be to deter by their presence all attempts or even thoughts of theft on the part of these kleptomaniacs."

The following resolution was finally adopted by the congress: "The Congress of Criminal Anthropology, considering that theft in the great stores and grand bazaars is a new crime of a particular character, *sui generis*, resulting from a combination of circumstances artificially constituted, among which may be cited the means employed to tempt the public, the facilities which are given to hold for a length of time in the hands the articles put on sale, and, above all, the absence of an efficacious protection or surveillance, make the following recommendation: That the great magasins and houses of commerce in which the public is permitted to circulate freely, should be the subject of special police regulation, with a view of diminishing the possibility of the commission of these thefts."