

to the work of the modern school or criminologists, should not the medical aspects of crime be given full consideration, its causes sought for and its prevention attempted? Some help comes to us from one bit of knowledge which has been acquired. It is in the slums particularly that criminals are bred. We should therefore direct our attention to the slum children—those whose parents are improvident and purposeless, and who plan nothing for their children unless it be a life of crime. Such children should be placed under healthful conditions, taught a trade if possible, and given a fair chance to make a living honestly.

Here let me quote the opinion of the eminent American anthropologist, Arthur McDonald:—"The poverty, misery, and vice of the next generation will to a large extent come from the slum children. Their need is education in habits of decency, cleanliness, self-respect, the rudiments of civilization and domestic life; their instruction should not be too abstract, nor technical in the sense of fitting them for competitive examinations, clerkship or college, but rather for the workshop, factory, trades, or the home." (Man and Abnormal Man.)

Of more purely medical interest amongst degenerates are the defective and the insane. We sadly lack in Canadian statistics bearing upon these classes, and such figures as we have are undoubtedly far from accurate. In our province, 1126 insane and defectives were under care in various institutions on the 30th day of September last, and probably half as many more were being looked after by their friends. The last report of the Commissioner in Lunacy for England and Wales shows that 1 in every 280 of the general population is insane, as compared with 1 in every 309 only ten years ago, an increase in the decade of over 10 per cent. The admission records of the Nova Scotia Hospital indicate that there has been a steady increase in the incidence of insanity—in proportion to the general population—since the hospital was opened a little over fifty years ago. Some of the pessimists think that it will only be a question of time until it will be necessary for those who remain sane to shut themselves up in asylums for safety, and turn the insane adrift. It is not necessary, however, to go to extremes in order to show