

fire a gun for the pleasure of hearing the noise, without foreseeing the natural consequence, that the person at whom the gun happened to be pointed, would be injured or killed. They would put poison in food, for the purpose of causing discomfort, without foreseeing that the natural consequence is to cause death. Many crimes are committed by persons of defective mind, from want of foresight of the natural consequences of their acts; and such want of foresight implies want of intention; and, in cases in which intention is part of the crime, such acts are not criminal.

The responsibility of the insane for the offences they commit may be summarized in the following quotation from my book on Criminal Responsibility :—

1. Some persons are so deeply and completely insane or idiotic, that we are not warranted in punishing them for any offence they may commit.

2. The majority of insane persons are sane in a considerable proportion of their conduct; and when, in this part of their conduct, they commit offences, they are rightly punishable.