

and quality of the act and of knowing that such an act was wrong, then the law says he is not to be convicted." Here the test is *capacity* of appreciating the *nature* and *quality* of the act and knowing that such an act was *wrong*. He might have delusions and be able to do this.

An example is given of a man who has the delusion that a certain person is going to take his life. He meets this person and shoots him, as he thinks, in proper self-defence. He would not be held guilty, as self-defence is justifiable, even though actuated wrongly under a delusion. But, on the other hand, it would be quite a different affair if an insane person shot one under the delusion that the latter had been slandering him. No one is permitted to kill another for such a reason. This is a fine distinction, but it is very clear.

In criminal cases "if the proved insanity is not of such a kind as is recognized by the law as an excuse, it is as though he were not insane at all." In other words, if he is capable of knowing the nature and quality of his act and that it was wrong, he must be held responsible, even though the victim of delusions. A man might have the delusion that his neck was made of glass and that it would break if he were to bend it, and, yet, be capable of knowing the nature and quality of such an act as setting fire to his neighbor's house, and that it was wrong.

Medical men are advised in the article to adhere to facts, give conversations, record acts, state clearly what was observed, and leave it to the court to determine whether the person comes within the pale of responsibility or not. Keep away from offering opinion. It should not be given simply as an opinion. If it is to have any value it must be a clear deduction from the facts of the case as revealed by a careful examination. The disease must render the person *incapable* of knowing an act to be wrong, and not that other question that he *does not* appreciate the nature and quality of his act. It is the fundamental one that he *cannot* make the distinction.

We would recommend that every doctor read thoughtfully Mr. Justice Riddell's article.

THE REVENUE AND DISEASE.

From the press of the day we learn that Canada's revenue this year will leap up to the large sum of \$136,000,000. This will be expended on the civil service, railways, canals, public buildings, and a small portion, perhaps, to the reduction of the national debt.

Time and again we have appealed to the medical profession to use its influence with the Governments of the country and the various provinces to induce them to do something substantial and prompt for the