

breakfast, he found the place locked. He knew his wife was ill and was fearful of her actions, etc."

The foregoing goes to show that the unfortunate person was of unsound mind when her husband left her, as he "was fearful of her actions." Such would not have been the case in any other sort of illness than insanity. To go out of the house for the purpose of opening a store does not, in our judgment, afford sufficient reason for leaving a helpless child at the mercy of one of whom it could be said by her husband: "He knew his wife was ill and was fearful of her actions."

The position we took in our last issue we are prepared to adhere to and still further emphasize. There are many who will not seek proper care for the insane unless they are compelled to do so. They are afraid that it may lead to some outlay of money, or they do not like the stigma of a relative being committed to the asylum. Neither of these reasons should be allowed to weigh in a matter of such importance.

A very considerable portion of the responsibility for the deeds of the insane should be placed upon the shoulders of those who should take care of them. A man is held to be responsible for the unlawful acts of his dog. He should be made responsible for the acts of his insane wife. This would compel him to place her in a proper institution or surround her with a proper guardian. Parents should be held to account for the acts of an insane son, so long as he remains under their roof. In like manner a brother should be held accountable for the conduct of his insane brother, provided the former keeps in his house the latter.

Were such statutes in force, people would not be quite so willing to imperil the lives of others, by keeping in their homes insane persons. They would be forced to pay for the keep of the insane in some institution, or secure the help of a competent person to look after them, or, not being able to do either of these, would avail themselves of the charity side of the asylum system in all the Provinces.

But the law should be made much stricter in the matter of tramps and vagrants, or such persons as are suspected of insanity. Any one who has no occupation and is trying to live as a vagrant or tramp should be placed under arrest at once until he can give a proper account of himself. If it turns out that he is mentally unbalanced he should be sent to an asylum. If he is not of unsound mind, but will not settle down to a proper mode of life, he should be deprived of his liberty as a criminal and made to perform public service for the State as an offset for the cost of his maintenance. Such treatment would lessen very promptly the number of our tramps and vagrants.