

therefore, an independent medical commission of recognized Psychiatrists be appointed in all mental cases, to calmly investigate and lay the results of their investigation before the Attorney General, the judge and jury? Or, if on the other hand the case be of such a nature that science alone can determine the nature of it, no jury would be required, the trial judge alone would be advised. This does not in any way derogate from the ancient pledge of British justice, that a man be tried by his peers. For over forty years no change has been made in the enactments governing medico-legal jurisprudence with reference to the mental defectives, the insane, etc., in England or Canada. The science of Psychiatry has made wonderful advances during that time. Indeed this period practically covers all the great discoveries in mental medicine. No branch of medicine, I make bold to say, no department of science, has made such remarkable progress during these years. Psychiatry is now an exact science. It is no longer experimental. The findings are as scientific and as accurate as the findings of the Chemist, the Pathologist, the Engineer, or any other branch of science.

With profound reverence for law and authority I therefore make the suggestion that scientific medicine should be the hand-maiden of justice, arm in arm the two should go, down the road together. I suggest that the Attorney General, in the fullness of his time and judgment should, by legal enactment bring to pass that in all trials where the question of insanity is raised, whether these be testamentary or criminal so-called, whether relating to the disposition of property rights or to the life and safety of the citizen, a body of professional psychiatrists be appointed by the Crown, a permanent body if possible, who, after careful and extensive study, would advise the Crown, having in mind but one ideal, the dignity of medicine and the majesty of justice.

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