

If Dr. Flint means that he is afraid to say what he thinks, lest some theologian shall attack him, his caution is excessive. His recommendation of a "Natural History of Crime" is, however, most excellent, and whatever its results as regards theories its practical benefits could not be other than most valuable. Its importance is daily becoming more obvious. Professor Ordronaux, New York State Commissioner in Lunacy, in his report, recently submitted to the legislature, says:—

"Crimes of a violent character are multiplying with a fearful rapidity, and every circle of society seems to contribute its quota to swell the number of perpetrators. Causes of a manifold nature acquired by ancestors, transmitted to offspring, and by them steadily intensified, tend to produce a series of results, which last expression is either insanity or crime, or both."

In penal legislation, two reforms are urgently needed, the one which will do away with the plea of insanity as the unfailing excuse for villainy; and the other, a change of the theory of penal legislation. At present, this is either that society revenges itself for a wrong done to it, or that it makes of punishment a warning to the evil disposed. The first of these theories is avowedly erroneous, and the second is impotent. The history of crime shows that not the most terrible punishments can check it; that, in fact, their severity is not what is deterrent in them, but their *certainly*. Therefore, the easy refuge of showing doubtful sanity as an excuse is most hurtful.

The progress of criminal law has been toward milder penalties. This should suggest its future reform. Do away with the death penalty altogether, do away also with the plea of insanity but make crimes of the first magnitude punishable by lifelong imprisonment, without the possibility of pardon unless innocence be shown. The punishment for crime should be *compulsory education*, and that is what imprisonment should mean.

Preventive measures should also be taken. Professor Ordronaux believes that the State would be justified in passing a law making it necessary that every violent epileptic should, if at large, have a committee of the person appointed, who should give bonds for his peaceful behaviour and safe custody, and be authorized to surrender him into the custody of an epileptic asylum whenever his condition may require it.

The power of the will lies in the supremacy of reason to emotion. Let no metaphysical cobweb of fatalism interfere with the efforts of practical reformation.—*Med. & Surg. Rep.*

TYPHOID ATTRIBUTED TO VACCINATION—A curious epidemic of typhus [typhoid?] is reported to have occurred in a large institution for young ladies in the Commune of Cam-