

There have been other methods suggested to attain the same end. Perhaps some day science may so far conquer sentiment that the physically and mentally unfit shall be sterilized and by a safe and easily applied surgical procedure be rendered incapable of propagating their species. Dr. Rentoul, of Liverpool, has given no little thought and attention to this subject and has contributed more than any one else to the literature on this question. He advocates that every safeguard should be provided by law authorizing sterilization. As regards the operation itself, he maintains the procedure necessary is to excise a small portion of the spermatic cords in the male, or of the Fallopian tubes in the female. There is no necessity of removing the glands in either case. With respect to those who should be operated upon, this, Dr. Rentoul says, should be decided by a lawfully constituted board. He suggests that not only degenerates, but all confirmed criminals, tramps, vagrants and sexual perverts should receive attention. Sir John McDougall, Chairman of the Asylum Committee, London County Council, has said, "Some day we shall come to the conclusion that some physical means should be employed to prevent the unfit from producing children." At a meeting of the Medico-Legal Society at London, England, Earl Russell, in speaking on this subject, said, "I think it admits of little doubt that if the ruling classes in this country, in Parliament, and in the law, were composed entirely of people of adequate medical knowledge, some such remedies as those suggested would soon become part of the law of the land." Dr. Barnardo left on record these words: "Some step will have to be taken in the near future, if we are to protect the nation at large from large additions of the most enfeebled, vicious and degenerate type." Dr. Bevan Lewis, a distinguished English alienist, says, "Nothing short of such radical means can stem the tide of increasing degeneracy." Dr. Barr, in his recent work on Mental Defectives, says, "Let asexualization be once legalized, not as a penalty for crime, but a remedial measure preventing crime and tending to the future comfort and happiness of the defective; let the practice once become common for young children immediately upon being adjudged defective by competent authorities, properly appointed, and the public mind will accept it as an effective means of race preservation, it will come to be regarded, just as is quarantine, simple protection against ill."

Quotations such as the above indicate a remarkable growth in favor of rendering the reproduction of their species by the degenerate a physical impossibility.

Perchance much that I have herein submitted may seem visionary and impracticable, but I am convinced from the study and consideration of this important subject much that will prove of lasting value may be