

Our mission, therefore, is not only to get recoveries from that class which at the time seem likely to furnish material for this desirable issue, but also to minister good offices and help to those still less fortunate, where there is only that hope which, being long deferred, at times makes the heart sick. Some good will come surely as the fruit of our efforts, and a great and unexpected good may come to gladden our hearts. Let the watch word then be "Never despair."

Passing to another thought somewhat germane, we remark that it has often been a subject of interesting reflection to us as to what a slight shade of difference there is between the persons inside of an Asylum for the insane, and those outside of it. It would be trite to remark, that, taking the extremes within the Asylum, a pretty wide shade of difference might be observed; and the same is true, of those outside.

Observe we are not pretending to have made a discovery, for in at least some measure this thought has been food for meditation not only to psychological specialists for a long period but also to others whose minds are chiefly engaged in the exploration of other fields of thought.

Many of our people are wise and clever, others are pretentious and foolish, others again are stupid and boorish. That in these characteristics they closely resemble the masses of the people outside no one will deny.

Our residents many of them have a fitting sense of the difference between right and wrong, and indeed they know the nature and quality of acts very well, and the consequences too. What more or less can we say of the people outside of the Asylum.

It is true that a knowledge of right and wrong has been set forth as a test of responsibility in the criminal acts of the insane. It is the famous Lord Mansfield test, and has been credited with having sealed the doom of scores of poor irresponsible lunatics and sent them to the gallows.

Certainly this knowledge is present in a great majority of the insane, and in many, who are acknowledged now on all hands, fitted to speak authoritatively, as irresponsible on other grounds. Indeed only delirious maniacs, the lower forms of idiocy, and far gone subjects of dementia are devoid of it.

Strangely enough, however, notwithstanding this, the law declares that an act done by an insane person is not a crime, and the person, therefore, cannot be tried, sentenced or punished for such act.

We do not think that any of these unfortunates in this Province have of late years been sent to the scaffold, but it is an incontrovertible fact that a number of them, rightly or wrongly have gone to the penitentiary. I just mention this fact here incidentally without comment except to remark that to my mind it appears that the law or the practice should be so amended as to harmonize the one with the other.

Returning again to the original subject, we remark that our patients are possessed with delusions—*false beliefs*—and grotesque enough many of them are. Some are harmless, and others are very harmful, their *meums* and *tuums* are much at fault, as suggested by their delusions. This by the way is Lord Denman's test of responsibility. He held that legal responsibility should depend on the presence or absence of insane delusions. It is freely admitted that delusions are present with many of the insane, and that it is some sort of a test of mental unsoundness, and of fitness for residence in an Asylum. But it is submitted with but little deference that the quality above mentioned is by no manner of means confined to those persons deemed fit subjects for admission into an Asylum. That the people outside do have delusions many, and grotesque ones too, no one will for a moment question; in fact, the people love to be deluded by every quack and every mountebank that sets himself up for the purpose, and they delude themselves in a thousand ways wilfully and their perversions of the *meums* and *tuums* are far more wicked than that of the other class.

Referring once more to the Lord Denman test, that of the presence of delusions, we remark that the class named, in writing of the Lord Mansfield test, viz: the delirious maniacs, the low idiots, and the low demented which in part fitted his test, quite vitiates the

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