

THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF THE CRIMINAL.*

By C. K. CLARKE, M.D.,
Medical Superintendent, Rockwood Hospital, Kingston.

THE criminal has always been the most attractive person in the community, if we regard him from the standpoint of popular interest, and that this fact is generally recognized may easily be verified by a brief study of the daily newspapers. In a crude way we admit that, on "general principles," it is in the interests of the state that the criminal should be locked up, and the average man is not slow to say that punishment is meted out as a deterrent to the offender, and a warning to others who might be tempted to commit crime.

To-day the criminal is being studied and classified in a way that will result in his being cared for and treated in a more satisfactory manner than is at present the case, and with much better protection of the rights of the state. In taking up the question of the treatment of the criminal the first error to be avoided is that of confounding defect with disease, because without this distinction the whole question becomes muddled. Even Bosañquet does not seem to have fully grasped the difference, and in his work on the "Philosophical Theory of the State" writes about the "cure of the offender by medical treatment," as if there was always some disease to cure; and when he comes to write of the reformatory theory it is more patent still that he is not fully in touch with the facts now fully accepted by physicians, who have arrived at conclusions by practical methods. In dealing with the question, I cannot lay claim to any great originality, and the views presented are those shared by physicians who have made a practical study of the criminal, and who hope that the day of radical reform in penology is not far distant.

The subject is, of course, an immense one, and there will not be time to take up the social and economic factors at work in the production of certain groups of criminals, and incidental-

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