

should at least do our utmost to prevent them from coming into the world. "People should not be allowed to get married unless they can produce a certificate of health."

The commissioners state in their report that "by far the majority of the discharged left the asylum within two years of being admitted." Now, there is nothing in the law to prevent ex-patients of lunatic asylums, public or private, from getting married and bringing into the world children who must be in some degree diseased. But this is a monstrous abuse of the privilege of marriage, and a very dangerous one to the community. We should restrain by all the means in our power the marriage of the degenerate. Every sound theory of race culture is inimical to it; yet we spend annually upon the up-keep of the insane and degenerate over £30,000,000—an enormous sum that is wholly unproductive. We have between 18,000 and 19,000 married and widowed imbeciles and feeble-minded; while the educated and "high-grade degenerates"—who are far more harmful to the race than the irreclaimable idiot—are increasing among us. "He who is born into this sad heritage," writes a modern expert, "leaves hope behind. We cannot cure what is not disease but defect, and that which the cradle rocks the grave will cover." Dr. Reid Rentoul has well said that breeding from degenerates has never yet paid a nation and never will pay. "The existing conditions compel thinking men and women to agree to this—that the preservation of the supposed rights of individual idiots, imbeciles, epileptics, lunatics, feeble-minded, and habitual criminals, in order that they may beget offspring, is but of very secondary importance when considered in connection with the future welfare, the mental and physical strength of our nation." And as long as we are engaged in polluting at its source the river of national health, we cannot expect to be greatly flattered by the reports of the Commissioners in Lunacy.—*Law Times*.