

see such a creature live to maturity, or at least very seldom. In the order of mind, then, we will take such a creature as a cypher to make our classification from, and say we take the man with an ordinary mental organization at 5, this would leave us imbeciles varying in degree of mental organizations to be classified as 1, 2, 3, 4; then, again, we must remember that all of those in these different grades of imbecility are not necessarily mental imbeciles, for such a name would signify that all were both intellectually and morally imbecile, which, as experience shows, would be taking a very false view of this class of persons, inasmuch as some of them are weak or imperfect in intellectual faculties, some in their moral faculties only, and others again who would properly come under the heading of amentia, being weak in their whole mental organization. Class No. 1, these, are to be found in all insane and imbecile asylums; they are morally and intellectually imbecile, so low in their whole mental organization as to incapacitate them from ever being taught even to keep themselves clean, or to eat, except in the most filthy manner. Nothing can develop their mental organization, they always remain dirty, filthy, vicious creatures; you rarely find this class live to the age of puberty. This is the class that persons generally designate as idiots, but they are not idiots, for they have some intelligence, although of a very low order. Class No. 2 are both intellectually and morally low, that is, they are mental imbeciles, but their intellectual faculties are lower than their moral. The best specimens of this class are to be found in asylums. By age and favorable circumstances their mental organization develops to a more or less degree, so they can be taught to be useful in the asylum, running of messages, &c., even some of them are taught to read and sometimes write, but, as far as my experience goes, they don't understand much of what they read about. Sometimes they become insane, and amongst them we find a number of epileptics, hæmiplegiacs and aphesiacs, and medical treatment in such cases I have found worse than useless. I have not been able to find that there was any very strong sexual desire in this class, but, when not brought up under favorable circumstances, they frequently sink into a state of brutality. It is from amongst the males of this class when there is strong sexual desire that

we find those erotic imbeciles so dangerous to be permitted to be free from restraint, who are in reality a dangerous class in society. You see, then, that the first or lowest class of imbeciles are mental imbeciles; the second class are also mental imbeciles, but that they vary very much. Some have their intellect more weak than their moral faculties, others have their moral more weak than their intellectual faculties, but, like class No. 1, they must always be under control. There are two peculiar characteristics, as a rule, in this class of imbeciles, and these are, that they are the most inveterate thieves and liars. I don't believe that they see any wrong in lying and pilfering. We sometimes find persons of this class dangerously maniacal, but I never saw amongst them a case of hysterical mania. No. 3. This is the really interesting class of imbeciles; they are a perfect study, and the more we study them, the more interesting the study becomes. They vary so much in intelligence and in morality. If you want to find a high moral faculty you may, as a rule, look for it in this class, although with it you will find a low intellectual faculty. They are generally clean in their habits, well conducted, honest and truthful, the women making good wives and the men good husbands, and both loving parents, hard working and industrious, very thrifty and fond of saving up money. They are, however, very sensitive and impulsive and easily roused to anger, when they immediately lose all self-control, and will commit a murder without knowing the consequence of their act, or perfectly realizing what crime they have committed. You will meet this class amongst the high and low, the rich and the poor. I have spoken generally of this class, but I must add that there are some of them morally as well as intellectually imbecile, and when they are, they are not much removed from brutes, and if their surroundings are bad, they become the most low, degraded, brutalized creatures, that nothing can improve; the only thing that can be done then with them is to lock them up for life. Every where we turn in our daily walks of life we meet this, the third class of imbecile, where the intellectual faculties are much below the average, and the moral faculties on the average good. Perhaps the best public sample of such a one is a man whose name you have all seen lately in the