

of action, noted in the conduct of these individuals, often by a total change in character.

They have often been discovered to have either committed suicide, or to have expressed a wish for death, or to have even wished to be executed as criminals.

Their acts are motiveless, or in opposition to the known influences of all human motives. A man, known to be tenderly attached to them, murders his wife and children ; a mother destroys her infant ; or the victims are perfect strangers.

Their subsequent conduct is characteristic ; they seldom seek escape in flight ; they even deliver themselves up to justice, acknowledge their crime, describe their state of mind, or remain stupefied and overcome by the horrible consciousness of the atrocious nature of their deed.

The criminal murderer has generally accomplices in vice and crime ; there are assigned inducements to lead to the commission of the murder—motives of self-interest, of revenge, displaying premeditated wickedness. The acts of the madmen are in some instances of this character, but the premeditation is peculiar and characteristic. (P. 176, *Woodman & Tidy's Forensic Medicine.*)

Finally, insanity is a disease of the body, affecting the mind by deranging its faculties, causing such suspension or impairment of the healthy intellect, the emotions or the will, as to render an individual irresponsible.

The legal test of insanity in criminal cases should be the existence of any subjective morbid condition of the nervous system which misleads the mind or conduct. The basis of insanity consists in the changing and misleading subjective impressions of the insane person, coupled with the resultant change of conduct or of reasoning or both. This is a change of mental character as compared with former self or normal ancestral type. In insanity, physical disease, sickness, impresses itself on the conduct or character of the person affected by it, misleading and perverting him in the exercise of his psychic powers.