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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

THE PREVENTION OF DETERIORATION OR "SOCIAL MISFIT"

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*"Quicquid agunt homines.....discursus nostri
est farrago libelli"*

These words of Juvenal, and the searchings of a closing year, are appropriate texts wherewith to justify the varied interests evinced by almost daily references to the heterogeneous methods advocated by all kinds of social influences in the public press and elsewhere for improving the physical and mental condition of the people, or in other words, for averting a national calamity.

The fact that two Royal Commissions are sitting at the present the one to investigate the censured short comings of the Poor Law and the other for the better care of the feeble-minded, demonstrate that the State is alive to the Social welfare.

Of the varied events which act as motive power to national action, two recent great historic operations may well claim to have agitated the public mind and to have given those of us capable of the psychological faculty of introspection ample food for reflection. The events referred are, our