

being known, there remains a total number of 699 lunatics condemned, during a period of 17 years, that is to say, an annual average of 40 unrecognised and condemned lunatics.

The proof that these prisoners were lunatics at the time of their trial and sentence is that upon their reception in prison they were immediately classed as lunatics. In the reports, it is stated that they were received as insane, to distinguish them from prisoners who became insane whilst undergoing their sentence. Moreover, the most part of them were transferred to the asylum a very short time after their trial, or, at least, during the year of their conviction, as the tables cited above prove. They show, indeed, that there remained in prison at the end of the year only a very limited number of lunatics and that even in certain years all had been transferred to the asylum. But this number of 699 lunatics received in the prisons after their trial and conviction does not certainly give the exact total of unrecognised and condemned lunatics. For 155 prisoners are reported as having become insane during the time of the detention. There is here certainly an error of interpretation. They are evidently, for the greater part, individuals whose insanity, after having been unrecognised at the time of their trial, was not detected at the time of their committal, and only became known during the time of their detention, on the occasion of some boisterous actions.

To one of us is assigned the duty of examining the prisoners confined in Montreal jail who are thought to be insane. This prison alone receives almost half, and very often more than half of all the individuals condemned in the Province of Quebec. Since 1894 not a single case was met whose insanity did not ante-date the trial and committal.

Moreover, a certain number of condemned lunatics do not appear at all in the above statistics, their mental state having been overlooked not only at the trial, but also during the whole time of their detention. This occurs in cases where the symptoms, though indisputable, are not sufficiently obvious to be apparent to observers without any special knowledge of insanity. When these cases accommodate themselves to prison life and are not difficult to manage, they frequently do not come under notice as lunatics. Also in cases where the prisoner conceals his insane delusions, etc., as Marandon de Montyel has reported numerous cases, and pass consequently unnoticed. These cases are not entered as lunatics in the records.

It is of no special interest to relate the history of these patients, who belong to all classes of insane. They are remarkable only from the fact that they have been unrecognised by the courts and condemned, and have been transferred to an asylum almost immediately after their condemnation, or after having undergone some part of their sentence.