

Often we see men, and sometimes women, on the street, carrying a white cane. If in their schooldays their eyes had been carefully tested some of these cases would have been avoided.

As regard hearing, there is a brighter outlook for those who are suffering from deficiency in hearing. A few years ago I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Commonwealth Medical Association in Edinburgh, Scotland. It was held in a large theatre, and of course I was away up in the "gods", but I was able to look down on the platform, and there I could see one of our genial senators who is in this chamber now. He was explaining his complicated fenestration operation to those specialists who were present. Since that day he has travelled to many parts of this continent and to other continents to explain his methods. As a result, many people are able to hear who otherwise would not have been able to enjoy hearing. I wish to pay a personal tribute to Dr. Sullivan.

I would mention one other subject. There are 75,000 hospital beds in Canada, nearly half of which are occupied by mental patients. Until recently there was disgrace and a stigma attached to the person who was so afflicted, and even to his relatives. Mental cases were harshly treated. Such persons were held in chains and in stocks. They were kept in poorly equipped asylums, and their condition was not at all understood. Since the newer drugs have been discovered, all that has changed. There is not now the need of restraint, the noisy aggressive patient can be kept under control, and almost all such cases can be treated in a special department of a general hospital, where much more research can be carried on concerning them. The disease of the mind is one of the sad diseases. We should get away from such words as "imbecility" and "lunatic asylum," and even "insanity," because there is a psychology of mental diseases, just as there is of any other disease to which the flesh is heir.

There are many grades of disease, and it is very hard to assess the efficiency of the human brain. In fact, the boundary line between the twilight and the darkness is extremely hard to define, and those who have been witnesses in the courts of law find that there is a lot of doubt and confusion regarding cases where insanity is pleaded. There is no uniformity in instructions given to juries. In fact, the law in Canada, stated roughly in this regard, is that the person who is accused can be declared not responsible for his act if it is established that at the time the crime was committed or the omission was made he

was not capable of telling the nature and quality of the act, that he did not know it was wrong.

That is pretty close to the old M'Naghten rules which were handed down in 1843, more than a hundred years ago. This man M'Naghten was afflicted with delusions of persecution. He thought Sir Robert Peel was one of his enemies and was causing some of his confusion. So he placed himself in a certain position, and when the door opened Sir Robert Peel's secretary, Edward Drummond, came out and was shot to death. Of course, M'Naghten was accused of deliberately shooting the man, and was brought to trial. The jury found that he was partially insane and therefore, he was sent to a mental hospital.

The present medical beliefs are not in harmony with those M'Naghten rules. For instance, the M'Naghten rules say you must be clearly insane. Thus it is the severity of the disease that is the dividing line between responsibility and non-responsibility. That is not as it should be, because the existence of the disease itself should be the chief consideration. Another point is it was assumed that M'Naghten was only partially insane. Now it is not believed that the brain is acting in different compartments: it is believed that it acts as a whole; even the emotions may overcome reason, and there could be no such thing as partial insanity.

The M'Naghten rules take no account of what is called irresistible or uncontrollable impulse. Some psychiatrists were asked about this, and 90 per cent of them said it did exist and should be added to the rules of the court. However, recently Chief Justice McRuer, the chairman of a royal commission on the subject, did not accept that view because there was some doubt as to the existence of the irresistible impulse and it would be very confusing to administer. If it were accepted, before a man could be declared irresponsible he would have to establish that he did not know the nature or quality of the act, did not know whether it was right or wrong, and was incapable of preventing himself from doing it.

Honourable senators, I will not continue because there are so many things that could be taken up to show the need for voluntary contributions to medical research. For instance, in Alberta alone they have made great progress with tissue transplantation and even transplantations of living organs, and they are turning the searchlight on prostate and kidney troubles.

In closing I thank you for your attention. I have tried to leave the impression that donating money to medical research is a wonderfully good investment because it will