

training imperilled by constant association and mutual reminiscences is worse indeed. Just as it is the aim of the physician to dilute the insanity of the asylum by the largest possible proportion of staff to patients and by distributing the excited patients to the best of his ability, so should public administration abolish the rookeries of vice and disease, and make speed to detach the children of criminals from the surroundings and influences which threaten their future. The industrial schools of the country have done most admirable work in this department of philanthropy, although they have not escaped from censure and wrongful criticism. We look, however, to home care, under judicious supervision, to afford the best results; and the occasional failures which have been recorded in the working of this system in its present tentative condition form no solid ground for the proposals to which we thus adversely refer.

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*Peculiar People.*

The vagaries of men and women who retain so much of sanity as to enable them to keep outside asylum walls are of deep interest to the philosophic psychologist. We stand amazed at the waves of eccentricity which periodically overwhelm humanity. What tincture of common sense is there in "Christian Science?" What subtle something is there in its doctrine to attract people of education to its temple in London? The eternal gullible is, of course, always with us, and the promise of hope leads any whither if only the trumpet-call be clear and insistent.

It requires some patience to examine the teaching of the Rev. Mary Baker G. Eddy, and to set forth her method of healing disease. Nevertheless, the *Westminster Budget* and the *British Medical Journal* have done what they could to elucidate the mysteries of her great discovery, and two recent inquests have enlightened us concerning the results. In truth, this farrago of pitiful nonsense, falsely heralded as Christianity and Science, is a very definite evil, and we cannot but regret that the defendants in the case of Harold Frederic escaped on a verdict of not guilty. When a man is weakened by disease,

unable to form a clear judgment regarding his position, and so reduced in will power as to be careless of what the future holds, surely the law ought to protect him from himself and still more from those who assume heavenly gifts in return for earthly payments.

It is true that, on an important decision of the judges in a court for the consideration of Crown cases reserved, Thomas George Senior was sentenced to four months imprisonment with hard labour for the manslaughter of his child because he had not supplied it with medical aid or medicine, though aware that it would probably die. That verdict of *guilty* will do something for the protection of infant life; but there is a second childhood consequent on disease and degeneration which equally requires protection, and we trust that the law will be so amended or so interpreted as to give Peculiar People short shrift when they endanger adult human life and augment adult human suffering.

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*Colonial Divisions.*

Letters lately received from Australia and Canada promise well for the establishment of colonial divisions of the Medico-Psychological Association. At the fourth annual conference of the medical staff of the Department of Hospitals for the Insane of Victoria, held in October last, Dr. M'Creery moved "That an intercolonial Medico-Psychological Society be formed, and that invitations be sent to all asylum staffs of the various Australasian colonies to be present next year in Melbourne, with a view to form an association which may become affiliated with the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland." This was adopted unanimously, and we trust that the scheme, now fairly floated, will be carried to a successful termination.

We also understand that the Quebec Medico-Psychological Association is about to take steps to induce all the provinces of the dominion to form a colonial branch. Dr. Chagnon has taken this matter in hand, and we have assurances from that highly esteemed veteran, Dr. Clark of Toronto, that the plan has his entire sympathy and will engage his active co-operation.