

Board, which has shown considerable capacity in some respects, may have the good sense to see that their own dignity and importance is not enhanced by degrading their officers, and that good pay and good treatment are conducive to efficiency,—that the Board is indeed a modern governing body, and not a survival, as its dealings with its medical officers would suggest, of an obsolete Bumbledom.

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*The Publican's Responsibility in Criminal Drunkenness.*

If drunkenness be a crime, as the latest legislation indicates, any person helping to produce it becomes of necessity an accessory, both to the crime and any criminal consequence.

That publicans are responsible, on this contention, for much of the crime in this country appears very probable. Within the few months last past, three judges of assize, Justices Kennedy, Matthew, and Grantham, in charging grand juries, drew attention to the large proportion of drunken crime, and its association with public-house drinking. Justice Grantham, at Durham, went so far as to assert "that every publican from whose house a drunken person went out should be *put in the dock and punished.*"

Public-house drinking is associated with a very large proportion of the crimes reported in the daily press, and the least observant person must have noted the invariable appearance of drunkards in the streets at the hour of closure of the drink-shops.

The evidence, indeed, is overwhelming that publicans do not limit themselves to their function of licensed victuallers, but do their utmost to pander to and cultivate the drink crave in the weak and depraved. It is astonishing that society at large has been for so long morally blind to the iniquitous conditions of the drink traffic.

Every drunken crime, if Mr. Justice Grantham is right, should entail an investigation in regard to the persons who were accessory to the drunkenness : but before this can be efficiently done, the police and local magistrates must be brought to regard their duties in this respect from a very different standpoint from that which now obtains.

The limitation of drink-supply to individuals—a very difficult

question—will have to be considered, and possibly guidance or control might be given to the publican.

The publican, however, is licensed to supply the reasonable needs of his customers, and it would seem right that on the publican should rest the burden of disproof of having aided in producing drunkenness and any resultant crime. If, for example, a drunkard or drunken criminal is proved to have come from a public-house, the licensee of that public-house should be held responsible for the drunkenness, unless he can prove the contrary.

The publican's responsibility must be recognised in the most definite and legal manner, as a necessary antecedent to any real reduction in the amount of the drunkenness and resultant crime in this country. The continuance of the existing licensed production of crime cannot but be considered as a disgrace to our age and civilisation.

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*The Correlation between Sexual Function and Insanity and Crime.*

From the earliest period of medicine a connection has been supposed to exist between the generative activities and the processes of thought. Perhaps to some degree the perception of this connection was in early times due less to observation than to a fanciful association in the mind of the thinker between the two great functions which seemed the most mysterious belonging to our organisation, and which seemed to have in common a certain portion of the divine attribute of creation. And so we find the Egyptians worshipping the generative impulse under various forms, while the Greeks believed that the nymph Memory was the mother of the Muses (various types of mental activity) by Zeus himself.

In later days more substantial reasons have been found for associating disturbances of the generative organs, particularly in women, with abnormal states of cerebral action. The accomplished outgoing president of the British Gynæcological Society, Dr. Macnaughton Jones, dwelt upon this subject in his valedictory address delivered on January 11th. Dr. Macnaughton Jones has been for some time collecting statistics