

bility of the individual for any crime committed in the state of intoxication. The ruling of Mr. Justice Day, as he understood it from the paper they had just heard read, was, if correctly reported, a simply astounding one, and one which, if admitted in the courts, would lead to an enormous amount of crime. For then many persons about to commit a crime and wishing to be free from punishment would previously, as had been said, get drunk. He thought that no difficulty would be likely to arise in the class of cases mentioned by one of the speakers, in which insane persons became drunk and did a criminal act. If the person was insane, so far as his responsibility for the crime was affected by his insanity, he would be relieved from responsibility, and in that case it would seem that both law and equity would demand that drunkenness should make no difference. As in the sane so in the insane; the sane person remaining responsible for the crime committed whilst drunk; the person insane to the degree producing irresponsibility, remaining irresponsible for the crime committed during drunkenness, he being then both insane and drunk. He thought it had been lost sight of in the discussion that, after all, punishments imposed were not punishments for the crime committed. It had been over and over again laid down that they were for the prevention of the commission of crimes by others, so that he thought the discussion as regards that point was a little wide of the mark.

Dr. HACK TUKE said that the case was different where the patient was susceptible to very small quantities of alcohol, and with constitutional tendencies leading him to commit crime.

Dr. MICKLE said he thought such a man should avoid the small quantity of alcohol. Dr. Rayner's suggestion that the person should not be held responsible unless he took what he knew was enough to make him drunk would, in effect, relieve of responsibility a person who committed a crime while he was drunk for the first time, because until he had been drunk once how was he to know how much would affect him?

Mr. C. M. TUKE thought that the present law was sufficient in most cases. A great deal of ordinary crime was, more or less, to be traced to the influence of drink, certainly such crimes as assaults. He had recently been reading a book called "New World Answers to Old World Questions," in which the author gave some very interesting statistics upon the influence of drink in regard to crime, and had taken great pains to see what crimes had been committed and under what circumstances, in one of the smaller States of America, and he found that ninety per cent. were directly or indirectly caused by the influence of drink. In that State the percentage of insanity was very small, but the drink was very large, and it was very evident that drink was mainly responsible for nearly the whole of the crime committed in that State. He thought that with the present law of England the cases now under consideration might fairly be left to the discretion of the judges, but where there was direct evidence of insanity it was a matter of great importance that medical evidence should be called, but in most of the ordinary cases the judges were able to deal with them.

Dr. BOWER said it appeared to him that judges and others having to do with this subject ought to be acquainted with the amount of drink which was connected with insanity. He had always had grave doubts as to the proportion of insanity which was stated in Blue Books to be caused by drink; something like fourteen per cent. He could not himself get more than five or six per cent. He had sifted the causes of insanity and found that drunkenness was more often caused by the predisposition to insanity in the family.

#### IRISH MEETING.

A quarterly meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at the Hall of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians, Dublin, on Thursday, January 21st, 1886. Present: Drs. Duncan (in the chair), Patton, Draper, Moloney, Conolly Norman, Courtenay.

CONOLLY NORMAN, F.R.C.S.I., read a paper on "Larvated Insanity," giving the history of two men who had, through life, shown at times well-marked delusions, but whose insanity had not been brought to light during their period of service in the army and police, though both were constantly in the possession of arms.

Dr. DUNCAN asked was there any history of masturbation in these cases?

Dr. DRAPEE asked were these to be looked on as distinct types of insanity? That the fashion now-a-days seemed to be to divide insanity into different species, whereas he agreed with Dr. Sankey that insanity was only one disease, and that many persons walking about might be said to be types of larvated insanity. He instanced the case of a gentleman who, on the death of his first wife, almost became insane from grief, but in six months married again, at the same time insisting on decorating his first wife's grave with wreaths.

Dr. NORMAN replied that he used the word "larvated" only to describe the course of the disease. In one of his cases distinct delusions had been shown for twenty-five years, during which time the man had continued in the public service with arms in his hands. In the second case the man had taken to the profession of arms under distinct delusions, which had never been discovered, though there were no lucid intervals. His delusions, which were always of an exalted type, had continued from his youth.

Dr. MOLONEY read a short paper on two cases of insanity from masturbation.

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#### GUILD OF FRIENDS OF THE INFIRM OF MIND.

We have been requested to bring this Society, instituted in 1871, under the notice of our readers. The President is the Bishop of London, and the Secretary the Rev. H. Hawkins, the chaplain of the Colney Hatch Asylum, who will be glad to furnish particulars to any one desiring them. No further payment is required than a contribution of 1s., payable on membership, which will only be granted to those strictly in communion with the Church of England, and who are willing to promote the objects of the Association by prayer and help. The day of commemoration is the festival of S. Luke.

The objects of this Association, which takes for its text, "He shall be for a sanctuary," are stated to be as follows:—

1. Intercessory prayer.
2. Visits to friendless patients in asylums, in conformity with the regulations of the establishment.
3. Correspondence by post.
4. Seeking situations for convalescents.
5. Promoting Convalescent Homes for temporary rest after mental illness.
6. Maintaining friendly intercourse with discharged patients.
7. Recommending efficient attendants.
8. Furthering, in any other way, the interests of the infirm in mind.

The number of past and present associates is about 200.

1. *Intercessions* of many have been offered on behalf of the objects of the Association.

N.B.—A special "Union for Prayer for the Infirm in Mind" has been formed. This might suit the case of those who could not otherwise assist. "You that can be no other way useful, yet you shall be no small helpers, if you be much in prayer."—LEIGHTON.

2. *Personal visits* have been paid to many patients: nearly forty associates