

restraint of the liberty of the subject. He was very strongly in favour of that proposition, and he should do nothing to diminish or qualify that. If people disobeyed the law, that seemed to him to be a reason for making the law more stringent. The law of larceny would not be abolished because, notwithstanding all laws against larceny, people still stole. Such a line of legislation could not be followed. As to what had been justly described as non-confirmed insanity, or incipient insanity, cases which were capable of being cured, he might say that he entirely sympathized with their object, and certainly, as far as he was concerned, he would try and give effect to their suggestions.

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#### MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC.

At the meeting held at the Protestant Hospital for the Insane, Verdun, on the 15th October, 1898, the new Rules of the Society, prepared by Messrs. Villeneuve and Chagnon, were read and adopted.

The following were elected honorary members of the Society:—Dr. H. M. Hurd, Baltimore; Dr. Ritti, Charenton; Dr. Urquhart, Perth; and Dr. Villers, Brussels.

Several important papers were read, which we hope to publish in the next number of this Journal.

With reference to *Medical Certificates and Commitment*, Dr. VILLENEUVE said that he had been continuing his studies on the subject. He gave a synopsis of what had been done in other countries, and pointed out that the medical certificates should show (1) that the person is insane by a detailed statement of the symptoms observed by the medical man; (2) that there is necessity for placing the person in an asylum for treatment or for the public safety—as shown by his actions and circumstances, which should be proved by the depositions of eye-witnesses; (3) that the physical condition of the person permits of his removal to the asylum. The Society adopted a motion by Dr. Villeneuve to remit this question to a special committee for report.

At the next meeting the question of alcoholism and the establishment of special hospitals for alcoholics will be discussed.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS FOR INSANE, VICTORIA.

##### FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL STAFF.

The first meeting was held at Kew on the 5th October, 1898; present, Dr. M'Creery in the Chair, Dr. Watkins, Dr. Beattie Smith, Dr. Samson, Dr. Lathbridge, and Dr. Steell.

Dr. BEATTIE SMITH stated that Dr. Norton Manning, whilst assuring them of his warm interest in forming a Medico-Psychological Association, said that he would be precluded from joining because of imminent changes. Since then, New South Wales had, by resignation, lost the services of Dr. Norton Manning, who, for a lifetime, had firmly, judiciously, and steadily forced upon his Government the necessities for advanced treatment of the insane, with great success. Dr. Eric Sinclair, his successor, as might reasonably have been expected, excused himself from being present on the plea of his whole time being then occupied, and at the moment not wishing to bind others without consulting them.

Dr. M'CREERY then moved—

“That an Intercolonial Medico-Psychological Society be formed, and that invitations be sent to all the Asylums Staffs of the various Australasian Colonies to be present next year in Melbourne, with a view to forming an Association which may become affiliated with the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland.”