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HUMAN STERILIZATION

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DR. B. OWENS ADAIR, Author of The Famous
"HUMAN STERILIZATION" BILL
of Oregon

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Owens-Adair, Bethenia, 1840-
1926.
Human sterilization

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HUMAN STERILIZATION

In submitting this little publication to the public, it is with the desire, the hope and belief, that the ever watchful eye of our great commonwealth, will appreciate the immense value of this process for preventing disease and crime through propagation. Since 1883 when I said to the physician who was in charge of the Oregon Insane Asylum, that if the time ever came, that I might be permitted, I would then use my pen and my brain along these lines. Since then I have used my tongue many, many times, in season and out of season, and I have received in return many rebukes and much good advice, as to modesty, being a priceless gem which every woman should wear. But not until 1904 did the first opportunity come, when I could use my pen and I assure you I lost no time in sending off the following communication to the Oregonian, and my delight at seeing it in print was beyond expression, to say that this publication shocked my family and many of my friends would be putting it mildly, I am older now and my tears do not lie so shallow (as mother said) as in my childhood days, and there is something in getting used to unpleasant things and yet, I am not innured, but I can go right on smiling just the same. To illustrate the trend of thought, only 7 years ago when I wrote my first communication to the Oregonian I received four letters all eulogizing and congratulating me on my bravery, etc., but the interesting part was, that those letters were all nameless, who would think of addressing me to-day on this subject without signing his or her name; not one, no not one. The world is being educated along these lines and is seeking for the purification and betterment of humanity, which in time will be found and verified in the yet unborn children whose parents blood shall be free from disease and crime. Through this publication I shall try to prove what I have been preaching for 30 years, that the power of transmission from parent to child, is a law which holds good through all life and dates back from the beginning of time, "Like begets like" from which there is no escaping. I shall produce statistics and quote from some of the great thinkers of the age especially from Judge Warren Foster, the Superior Judge of the highest and greatest criminal court in America. I advise all who can to read "Hereditary criminality and its certain cure" by Judge Foster in Pearsons November 1909. He advocetes sterilization as the "certain," and only cure.

My first article on this subject published in the Oregonian was as follows:

FAVORS USE OF KNIFE

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., March 11.—(To the Editor.)—I have been much interested always in the problem of race improvement, and especially of late in the discussion in your invaluable paper on the humanity or inhumanity of sparing or cutting off at birth the lives of physical or mental defectives.

However strong I might believe that the death at birth of all such would be best for them and for humanity, I could never accept the solemn responsibility of taking a human life, and I am persuaded that it is a power not to be safely or properly intrusted to any private human judgment. And yet the human race should and could be largely protected from monstrosities and deadly diseases without resort to the taking of life. Certainly parents should think and live rightly. This course, in time, through generations of parents, would doubtless produce a race very near to physical and mental perfection; but at present unfavorable ancestral influences are too strong for one right-living pair to more than partially overcome them, therefore it is not wholly within the control of parents to produce just the kind of children they desire. If it were, we should soon have a whole race of Roosevelts, Willards and Shakespeares—a condition delightful to contemplate, but I fear still far in the future.

Here is a case in point which occurred recently in my own practice, of a handsome young Scotchman, full of life and health, with a beautiful young American wife—ages 27 and 24 (the most vigorous time of life, according to Dr. Osler). This happy couple of 18 months' wedded life were looking forward with joyful anticipation to the stork's visit to their home. In time he came, and brought a poor, frail, six-pound babe, with an unnaturally long neck, and an abnormal growth of the size of a hen's egg on each side of its throat. Can you attach any blame to these healthy, right-living, offspring-desiring parents? No, for it would be palpable injustice. Should I have killed that child? No, a thousand times, no.

Besides, who can tell at the child's birth whether, though seriously handicapped physically, it may not one day become a power in and blessing to the world.

For instance, Alexander Pope, Lord Byron, the present Emperor, William of Germany, and, to come near home, our own able historian and man of letters, Professor H. S. Lyman, all physically imperfect at birth, might have come under the proposed plan of extermination.

That we have not complete control of the situation, however, is no reason why we should not use our best effort, by right thinking and living, to have our children, so far as our power and responsibility go, well born.

This is a deep and serious subject, and one far too great to cope with in its entirety, yet, I repeat, much can and should be taken. Some of the worst ills to which humanity is heir, such as insanity, epilepsy, and cancer, are almost certainly transmitted by the immediate progenitors. The greatest curse of the race comes through our vicious criminal and insane classes, and to my mind this is the element that should be dealt with, not by chloroform or strangulation, but by the science of surgery, for if their power to reproduce themselves were rendered null a tremendous important step in advance would have been taken, not only without injury to life, but often with positive benefit to the victims themselves.

Over 20 years ago I visited our State Insane Asylum at Salem. My friend Dr. H., then in charge, received me graciously, and conducted me through the various wards. On our way from the wards back to luncheon I said: "Doctor, this is a horrible phase of life; and when is it to end?" I do not know. It is hard to tell," he replied. "If I had the power," I continued, "I would curtail it, for I would see to it that not one of this class should ever be permitted to curse the world with offspring," He stared at me and finally said: "Would you advocate that method?" "I certainly would, if I were not a woman, and a woman M. D., to whom, I know too well that at this day and age it would simply mean ostracism," I answered. "Well he rejoined, "I beg you not to mention this subject to my wife, for she would be shocked and horrified." "I shall not mention it to your wife," "but I want to tell you right here that if I were in control of this institution, as you are, I would at least give many of these pitiable unfortunates the one chance of recovery, which might restore their reason. You know, doctor, as well as I do that hysteria and insanity are often due to diseased reproductive organs. Think of those loathsome victims of an unnamable vice under your charge. It would be nothing less than common humanity to relieve them of the source of their curse and destruction by a simple surgical method that might give them a chance to recover their reason."

Eight or ten years since, in a conversation with an eminent attorney concerning a mutual friend and near neighbor, whose wife had recently called upon this attorney at dead of night to protect her and her children from her husband, who had for the second time become suddenly insane, he said to me. "This is terrible. But who would have thought of this level-headed business man going insane?" I responded, "Remember, we know it is in his blood by family inheritance. And now I am going to say what will shock you, which is that every person admitted into an insane asylum should be so dealt with as to preclude reproduction." Instantly and warmly he exclaimed, "I sanction that, and I will go farther by including every criminal that goes through the penitentiary doors." Thereupon we shook hands on it then and there, feeling sure that the time would

come when the commonwealth, forced to grapple with this vital subject, would be able to adopt these measures with the full assent of a majority of its citizens.

DR. OWENS ADAIR, M. D.

Warrenton January 25th, 1907.

To the Editor:—A short time since while in Portland, Prof. D. A. Grout said to me one morning, Dr. here is something that will interest you, and he read the following, "Sterilize the Insane. Wisconsin will attract attention by the serious effort to be made to enact a law for the sterilization of the feeble minded and insane wards of the State. The plan has found indorsement among many sociological students and is approved by the State Board of Control. Yes, I said that does interest me, and I wish I were there to assist in getting that bill through and I assure you that it is my intention to work in favor of legislation along those lines. Three years ago when I found the first opportunity to express my views on this vital subject after waiting twenty years for the chance my friend Mrs.—— said Dr. the Oregonian will not publish that, its too broad, I believe the Oregonian will publish it but if it turns me down, I want you to remember that the time is not far distant, when all great papers will be willing to publish full discussions on this subject. The article can be found in my book page 515, the Oregonian not only published that article but introduced it with the following headlines, "Favors the use of the knife, Physician recommends operation for defectives, means chance for recovery for unfortunates themselves. Prevents propogation of unfit children." Today I picked up an Oregonian and running my eyes down the columns, I saw in large headlines, "Thompson poor Scholar Boy Murdered." Another item "Tacoma saloon keeper charged with a detestable crime, entices a 14-year-old girl in a room over his saloon and keeps her there for two days" further on "marriages only for the fit, Rev. Driver preaches eugenics to women at the Sunny Side Church," I am glad to know that Dr. Driver is working along these lines, he is eloquent, logical and resourceful, but to my mind this subject demands more radical treatment "If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off," I hold that we should go to the very root of this great evil and cut it off, wherever it may be found, I have little faith in the ultimate success of this pruning process, for the weaklings and the vicious are neither prunable or teachable. They are a menace to the vitals of our nation, and should be regulated and controlled by the strong hand of the law. Love does not always go where it would be sent, or most desired. It may come like the gentle cooing of the dove, or the soft sweet-dew drops in the balmy morn or it may take the form of a violent passion and swoop down like a whirlwind of destruction having no thought save

its own selfish gratification, but love however or wherever it may be found, as a rule, is deaf to reason or entreaty. Therefore I hold that marriage and propogation cannot be regulated or controlled, by certificates of health and fitness from physicians and scientists, but as the sins of the parents are visited upon the children beyond the third and fourth generation, it becomes our duty to rid ourselves of the cure of insanity and our kindred evils. Are we not staggering under enforced taxation for the support of our weaklings, our monstrosities, our insane and our criminals. A large portion of this class could be rendered self supporting by simply rendering each and every one sterile, which would prove a blessing to them and protect our commonwealth from a future propagation of their kind. If we could have a law declaring that every rapist or defiler of youth and virtue, should be rendered sterile. What think you would be the effect? I believe it would be more effectual than the penitentiary door, the hangmen's rope or the torches of the South. It is a well known fact, that any animal when rendered sterile, looses much of its vicious and ungovernable nature and soon becomes docile, useful and contented. This law will hold good in the human race as well. What objection can there be to such a human law, to my mind there can be but two objections, first sentiment, second what I would term false ideas of personal rights. And now I will ask in conclusion, is there not a member in our present legislature who is willing to perpetuate his name by introducing a bill that will regulate and control this evil? Let Oregon show that she cannot be outdone by Wisconsin.

DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

Warrenton, January 19, 1907.

To the Honorable Senator Bingham:

My Dear Senator:-Yesterday I sent the enclosed copy to the Oregonian which I think will appear in tomorrow's issue and as you may not see it I inclose a copy, the inclosed clipping I found in the Astoria Budget, referring to your bill, I therefore desired to write you at once, I am greatly interested in this subject and should like very much to see you and compare notes. I do not believe that a sane man or woman should be required to live with an insane wife or husband 6 years or 1 year. Marriage means propagation and insanity means transmission, I regret that I have not a copy of the article referred to in my book. Senator Bailly Linotyped and Mann & Beach printed my book. You can refer to Senator Bailly and Senator Beach. I took issue with "Radical Progressiveness."

Most respectfully

DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

DIVORCE FOR INSANITY

Person Insane for Six Years May be Divorced.

SALEM, Jan. 18.—Permanent insanity is made a ground for divorce in this state by senate bill 38, introduced by Senator Bingham of Lane in the senate. Heretofore insanity has not been a ground for a divorce in Oregon, and courts in many other states have held that insanity is not a ground for divorce at common law.

Senator Bingham's bill provides that before a divorce can be granted for insanity the insane person must have been in the asylum for at least six years prior to the commencement of the suit, and it must appear to the court that insanity is permanent and incurable.

The person asking divorce on the ground of insanity must have resided in Oregon at least six years prior to bringing suit, and must pay all the costs of the suit. In divorce suits on all other grounds the law now provides that one year's residence in the state before commencing the suit is sufficient.

The district attorney must appear at all suits for divorce for insanity and defend them. It is provided that no divorce can be granted on this ground unless the district attorney appears to defend it. Other grounds for divorce that now exist remain unchanged.

RADICAL PROGRESSIVENESS.

"A Bill for an Act Requiring Physicians to Take Human Life." This is the title of a bill now pending before the legislature of the State of Iowa. It is the first and most radical demonstration, in a legal way, of the theory that it is expedient, socially, and industrially, to destroy idiotic and helplessly deformed children, at birth, and malady-stricken adults and incurables later in life, that has ever been broached in this country, and its progress will be watched with tremendous interest all over the country. It took courage of rare sort to frame and introduce such a measure and it will require no less to enact it into a statute. It has an ugly sound and at first thought inspires repugnance and horror, but the reading of the bill minifies this, and engages the more tolerant interest of the mind by the wealth of argument in favor of the progress, as a legal and a merciful method of reducing the endless miseries and dreadful dependencies of life. The fact that the abnormal children are to be skillfully disposed of with the consent of the parents, and the adults with their own consent, or in default of this, with that of the nearest of kin, puts the bill on a footing of rational consideration it might lack under less thoughtful provisions, and if it should pass to the code of Iowa, an organic and actual prescription for some of the most dreadful evils of the day, and if it shall pass muster under con-

stitutional review, it will herald the dawn of an era of wisdom long hoped for, for it will pave the way to other, and sorely needed, legislation, equally radical and equally important.—Statesman.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
Legislature of 1907
Senate Chambers, Olympia.

Walter J. Reed
Fifteenth District
North Yakima.

Dr. Owens Adair, North Yakima, Wash.

Dear Doctor:—I received your letter yesterday afternoon and your bill has been introduced in the Senate today. I had to get one typewritten to conform with the rules of the senate and the enactments of the state. I return you the original for the reason I send this back to you is you may need the names of the physicians that have signed this: Just as soon as the bill is printed which will be in a few days I will send you some copies to Astoria and will send some to Dr. Hill at Yakima. It is so late in the session I cannot expect the bill to pass, in fact there are so many bills on the callender that half of them will nor cannot be considered, yet the people will be educated up to the necessity of a measure that is certainly of great interest and benefit to coming generations.

I am very sincerely,

WALTER J. REED

TO STERILIZE THE INSANE.

**Dr. Owens-Adair Would Revolutionize Treatment of Certain Cases—
Former North Yakima Woman Has Four Champions.**

Dr. Owens Adair, the well known physician, who arrived in the city early Monday afternoon to visit her son, Dr. G. J. Hill, is responsible for a bill which has been introduced in the Oregon legislature, and which will be introduced in the Washington legislature. The bill relates to the sterilization of degenerates, insane, feeble-minded and certain classes of criminals, and promises to revolutionize the methods used in the treatment of insane cases. Dr. Adair left North Yakima about two years ago. For several years she practiced medicine in this city with great success, and she still retains large realty interests here.

That Dr. Adair is a specialist with wide knowledge of this class of cases and that her word in these matters is considered as expert authority is demonstrated by the fact that she has four champions of her bill in the Oregon legislature.

The bill is the most radical preventive legislation ever considered in the west. It provides for sterilization of all those convicted of

statutory crimes, of criminal degenerates, of incurably insane and similar cases.

A remarkably strong sentiment in support of the bill has been discovered in the house, especially among the Portland members, who have been connected with the boys and girls' aid society, Florence Crittenden home and juvenile court work.

"It should be impossible for seven generations of feeble-minded to descend, as has been the case in Oregon in one family," said one member who will support the bill.

"No idiot or maniac should perpetuate his strain," said another.

"The vicious degenerate could be made almost an absent factor by enforcement of such a law," said a third, "and every physician knows such a measure should be enacted and enforced," said the fourth man who will back the bill.

Mrs. Dr. Owens Adair gave out the following in an interview with the Herald: "If the right hand offend thee, cut it off." I believe we should go to the very root of this great evil and cut it off wherever it may or can be found. I have little faith in the ultimate success of this pruning process. For the weakling and vicious are neither prunable nor teachable. They are a menace to the vitals of our nation, and should be regulated and controlled by the strong hand of the law. Love does not always go where it would be sent or most desired. It may come like the gentle cooing of the dove or the soft, sweet dewdrops in the balmy morn. Or, it may take the form of a violent passion and swoop down like a whirlwind of destruction, having no thought save its own selfish gratification. But love, however or wherever it is found, is, as a rule, deaf to reason or entreaty. Therefore I hold that marriage and propagation cannot be regulated or controlled by certificates of health and fitness from physicians or scientists.

"Yet, as the sins of the parents are visited upon the children beyond the third and fourth generations, it becomes our duty to rid ourselves of this curse of insanity and kindred evils. Are we not staggering under enforced taxation for the support of our weaklings, our monstrosities, our insane and our criminals? A large portion of this class could be rendered self-supporting by the simple operation of rendering each and every one sterile, which would prove a blessing to them and protect our commonwealth from further propagation of their kind. If we could have a law declaring that every rapist and defiler of youth and virtue should be rendered sterile, what think you would be the effect. I believe it would be far more effectual than the penitentiary, the hangman's rope or the torch of the south. It is a well known fact that any animal when rendered sterile loses much of its vicious nature, and soon becomes docile, useful and contented. This law will hold equally as true in the human race.

What objection can there be to this humane law? To my mind, there can be but two: First, sentiment; second, what I would call false ideas of "personal rights."—North Yakima Herald.

WILL FORCE THE BILL DR. OWENS ADAIR TO SECURE PASSAGE OF MEASURE.

Secures Signatures of All North Yakima Physicians, Who Heartily Endorse Her Ideas.

"I may not be able to accomplish all I would like at this session of the legislatures of the states of Oregon and Washington in relation to the 'sterilizing bill,' " said Dr. Owens Adair Monday to a Herald reporter, "but you can rest assured that I will be on hand two years hence if I am still in the land of the living, and with a force favoring its passage that will be felt."

The doctor has been very busy since coming to North Yakima to visit, in securing the endorsement of the local medical fraternity to the measure which she has already had introduced in the Oregon legislature, and a similar bill which she will seek to have brought up at Olympia by Senator Reed. She has secured the signature of all the doctors here with the exception of two, and also had the endorsement of several of the leading physicians of Seattle. The bill as proposed.

An Act providing for the sterilization of feeble-minded, epileptics and insane persons, and prisoners in the penitentiary.

"This matter is being brought up in this form," said Dr. Adair, "in order that men and women may think over this, one of the most serious questions before the American people. The idea is pronounced by a few as 'terrible' and 'inhuman,' but if those who oppose the measure will stop and do a little reasoning and post themselves, I believe they will arrive at the same conclusion that hundreds of the leading physicians of the land have, and that is that sterilization will solve the problem of perpetuating the insane and criminally inclined. The United States expends over \$500,000,000 a year in caring for these classes alone, and the people have it to pay. In Wisconsin a similar bill has been introduced and is being supported by the board of control and all the superintendents and wardens of penitentiaries.

"It is my purpose the coming two years to use every means for the dissemination of information and arousing the public conscience by meeting and discussing the matter with the women of the two states, the clubs, the preachers, the legal and medical fraternities, and

I believe that when the legislatures again meet at their respective capitals two years hence an array of petitions will confront those bodies that will command the attention of those bodies, and I believe secure for the two states a law constructed upon the lines I have outlined in my bill. Then will the asylums for insane and the penitentiaries for the vicious become less conspicuous throughout the land."—North Yakima Herald.

North Yakima, Wash., Feb. 23, 1907.

To Ferral, Chapen, Beals and Newell.

Gentlemen:—I see by this morning's Herald that my "sterilization Bill, so kindly championed by four sensible and fearless young men, has met the fate that I expected. I expected defeat but the defeat brings with it a determination to succeed, and in two years hence I will try again. By that time the good people will have recovered from the shock and the Legislators will have had time to think and reason upon this subject which is all that I ask.

Again thanking you, I am, most sincerely,

DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

A CLATSOPIAN TALKS IN VIGOROUS TERMS.

SUBSTANCES OF ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. OWENS- ADAIR IN PORTLAND.

The Astorian is pleased to be able to submit the text of Dr. Owens-Adair's recent address before the Oregon State Woman's Suffrage convention, in Portland, and to commend its careful perusal to every thinking man and woman in the country:

"I am not here to make an address, only a few minutes talk. It would be superfluous to tell you that I am in favor of equal suffrage for everybody, who knows me, knows that. To use an old homely expression. "I have always been doubled and twisted and dyed in the wool." I have never been much of a talker, but I have been a worker. A very radical and aggressive worker. I have always followed out my conscience, and have thereby many times shocked the sensitive nerves of my friends and the public as well.

"But the public is not so easily shocked as it was 40 years ago. I have lived a long time in Oregon. I think I was present at the birth of the new Northwest. I worked hand in hand with the editor

through all those stormy, stormy times. But there are no more battles of scorn, abuse and derision to be fought. Tar and feathers, rotten eggs, together with such lovely epithets, "Blue stockings, breeches and crowing hens" have been relegated to the past, never to return again.

"Today it is brains versus idleness and ignorance. We have nothing now to discourage us, nothing to make us cross and ugly. For the work now is a pleasure and not a deprivation. Just stop and measure the future by the past. Where will we be 40 years hence? This is an age of rapid progress. We are going ahead with leaps and bounds. Think of it. Women are found in almost every avenue of industry today. The trades and professions are open to her, and she is proving her ability in all directions. There are many ways to work a problem, and we will solve this voting problem. Unity and numbers always give strength, and bring success. We have both. The leaven of forty years ago has not only leavened these United States but the United Kingdom as well. All over the universe today women are rising up and taking hold with hands and brains, of everything that comes within their reach and they are demanding equal shares, equal pay and equal rights with men. I don't feel half so badly as I did 30 years ago because I am not allowed to vote, because I know the better class of men, men of brains and education are willing and anxious for women to vote. It is because the low and ignorant that oppose us and they are unfortunately in the majority. But with the better element behind us, we will overcome the opposition. Where there is a will, there is a way, and we will find the way. I believe all the sorrows and struggles of our lives, are blessings in disguise, the struggles, the sorrows, the smoke and the fire through which the pioneer women have passed have given to women all the opportunities which women possess and enjoy today. Woman's work has ever been for the good of humanity.

"Four years ago a prominent club-woman startled and shocked her associates by declaring that there should be a law requiring physicians to destroy at birth all deformities. The Oregonian sent out reporters all over Portland to interview both men and women on the subject. I said to my friend, "Now is my chance for which I have waited 20 years." I sat down and wrote my views on that vital question and read my notes to her. She said, "Doctor, the Oregonian will not publish that. It's too broad."

"I believe the Oregonian will publish it, but if it does not, just remember it will not be many years till every great paper of this borderland will be willing to publish and discuss this vital subject. I am proud to say that the Oregonian did publish that letter. It introduced it with large, appropriate and attractive headlines. Now contrast the editor of the Oregonian with the doctor of 20 years ago, who accompanied me through our state asylum. After passing out

of that pitiful and loathsome ward, I said, "Oh, doctor, where is this to end?" "It is hard to tell," he said: "Well, said I, if I had control here as you have, I would see to it that these poor, miserable creatures would have the only chance for their sanity." He looked at me with perfect amazement and said, "You would not recommend that, would you?" "I beg of you not to mention it to my wife for she would be shocked." "Oh, I am not going to talk this to your wife, but I want to tell you right now, that I hope the time will come when I will be permitted to use my pen and my voice in this direction for the purification and preservation of our nation.

"Two years ago I called upon the Legislature through the columns of the Oregonian to enact a law to prevent propagation, through sterilization of criminals, idiots, insane and all that class of defectiveness. From the prominence given my communication by the Oregonian the subject was taken up by the Washington press and also by Eastern papers. I went to the Legislature and succeeded in getting such a bill introduced in the House, which I consider a great step in advance, and now my co-workers, I ask your assistance. Give me your council, go with me to Salem. Use your pens and study the subject. The press will stand behind us. The newspapers are the great educators of the people. The pen is mightier than the sword. The great dailies, the weeklies and monthlies that are sent out by the tens of thousands are the creations of the best, and deepest thoughts of great minds that have been made great by constant thought and application.—Daily Astorian.

"Dr. B. Owens-Adair, of this county, who has been in attendance upon the Oregon Woman Suffrage convention at Portland, has returned to this city yesterday quite happy in her experience there, both in the matter of her fraternal association with the good women of the state assembled to foster and further their claims to the ballot, and with the pleasure and success that waited upon her in her effort to advance the advocacy of her pet bill for the amelioration of the human family by sterilization, which came to her in the opportunity to meet the legislative delegates from Multnomah in their recent "pot-latch."

To this latter assembly the doctor made a formal address in the interest of the bill alluded to, the substance of which follows, and it was very happily received by the gentlemen present who were frank and kindly in their approval and promises to consider the matter deeply and devotedly when it should come up in House and Senate this winter:

"Gentlemen of our next Legislature:

"I must apologize for not having any data with which to present my subject. I did not expect this opportunity until my friend Senator Beach opened the way for me by kindly offering to present me to you.

But to come to the work in hand. Two years ago through the Oregonian I called upon the Legislature to enact a law to prevent the future propagation of criminals, idiots, insane and all that class of objectionables by and through sterilization. That class which we know is not only a burden, but a curse to our homes, our state, and our nation as well.

I did succeed in getting that bill introduced into the house which I consider was a great step in advance. Through the prominence given my communication by the Oregonian the subject was taken up by the Washington press and given wide circulation and more fully discussed than in Oregon. And my friend Senator Walter J. Reed, assured me that had he received the bill in time it would have passed the Senate with little or no opposition.

Now gentlemen it is my intention to be with you in Salem and I hope to bring with me the names of our most prominent physicians, asking you to give us a law for the purification and preservation of our state. And I ask of you as a favor that you think along these lines just a few moments each day and read the headlines and glance through, if possible, any such publication on the subject. By so doing I believe that every one of you will be prepared and willing to cast a conscientious vote for such a humane law. I thank you.

Dr. Adair received every courtesy at the hands of the Legislators and was ably assisted in her presentation by Representative Frazer, who was in charge of the bill two years ago, and by Miss Myrtle Pease, a lady who is deeply interested in the subject, and by Senator Beach who made it possible for her to meet the delegates; and for all of which she is correspondingly grateful. The doctor intends to enter the field this winter and prosecute the measure valiantly upon its sheer merits which are, admittedly, many and excellent.—Astorian.

FIRST OF A SERIES OF FINE PAPERS.

The Morning Astorian is presenting this morning the first of a series of fine papers written by Dr. B. Owens-Adair, of this country, on the subject of her proposed legislation in behalf of human sterilization and the mitigation of all physical and mental and moral perversion, and the criminal tendency generally, in human society. There will be a number of these during the winter and they will be of exceeding interest and even concern to this people and to those in a constantly growing field that must eventually become world-wide.

The plea set up by Clatsop's most excellent citizens and clever professional representative sounds on its initial utterance to the

unexpected ear harsh and radical, and extremity even; but the more it is considered in the light of the need for some efficacious remedy for the ills of "the flesh and the devil", the more it recommends itself to the intelligent and humane principle in man and woman, and will, if cultivated, and reduced to its simplest and best expedience of application and method, become one of the cardinal rules of a better, freer, and nobler existence. The communication reads as follows:

"To the Editor—Two years ago I called upon the Legislature of Oregon to enact a law to prevent a further propagation of criminal idiots and insane through sterilization. A few years ago the community would have been shocked by the mere mention of such a process, but we are rapidly growing broader and wiser. Even the common people are being educated up to a reasoning standpoint through our public schools, one of the strong arms of our nation which is reaching out and taking in all that is in reach that will benefit the young.

"The rapid increase of insanity and vicious elements is simply appalling; the penitentiaries, insane asylums, reform schools and homes for all kinds of defections have not only become a burden to our commonwealth but a menace as well and if allowed to proceed, where will it end? This is a pitiful calamity, one which every thinking man and woman understands and for which a remedy must be found. I realize that this is a delicate subject to handle and for that reason it has not heretofore been brought before the public, but it must be handled without gloves, from a scientific point, which is only common sense extended. I have no fears but it will stand upon its own merits, only let in the light reason and the clouds of prejudice and ignorance will disappear.

"This remedy will bring untold blessings to the unfortunates themselves both in health and disposition. The only loss to them would be the power of reproducing their kind which should not be allowed. We all know the effect of sterilization on the lower animals, they soon cease to be vicious and become quite pliable and affectionate. You may object to this comparison but comparative anatomy teaches us the truth of this assertion. It is well known that the law of transmission is a radical law both in animal and human life.

"It is true that it may skip one or even two generations but in time will gather force and assert its power for good or evil. So well is this law understood that the majority of the murders committed are defended upon the plea of hereditary insanity. If we had a law requiring the sterilization of every criminal who made insanity a plea for defense the insanity dodge would not be so frequent. Look at our own recent tragedy, a vicious and vindictive man deliberately walks into an office and shoots down a good Christian man in the

bloom of his usefulness, bringing sorrow to his young wife and baby. Had the murderer been well born he never could have committed such a foul deed. And now like Chester Thompson, the boy fiend of Seattle, he may be freed and allowed to go forth to transmit his vicious blood to unborn children, which will multiply and increase with the growth of the child until something happens to bring the fiery demon to the surface and then the explosion takes place and the fearful shock is felt. No amount of training or education can completely eradicate such hereditary traits.

"Therefore, I say that every child has a right to be well born, and no vicious person should be allowed to propagate his kind by contaminating the blood of the helpless unborn child. Let us put a stop to the further building of penitentiaries, insane asylums, reform schools and homes for the defectives. These are the sins that the Bible tells us are visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation. Shall we permit these sins to be transmitted? Now I call upon you, our Legislators, you whom the public have elected to enact good wholesome laws for the preservation and protection of our state. I beg that you take this home to your hearts and then cast your vote for your homes and the homes of your neighbors. Then Oregon will give you thanks and the unborn in time will rise and call you blessed. Set the example and other states will follow.

"DR. OWENS-ADAIR."

NO JEST ABOUT THIS MEASURE.

Dr. Owens-Adair Again Defends Her Plan of Sterilization.

WARRENTON, Or., Dec. 17.—(To the Editor.)—I beg space to reply to R. W. Traver who took me to task and sagely advises a 16th amendment to the constitution, which shall prohibit the manufacture and sale of both tobacco and whisky. Personally I should approve of such a law, as I abhor whisky and detest tobacco. I have used my feeble efforts against both all my life, but the curse is still with us. As there are about 95 per cent of all men who use tobacco in some form, and a large per cent who use alcoholic stimulants, and women are not allowed to vote, I don't just see where the "16th amendment" is coming in. Don't try to sidetrack me on that old threadbare theory, but you go right along and get your 16th amendment" and I'll say amen if I'm living.

A long time ago, about a quarter of a century, I was an active member of the third House at Salem, and that honorable body gave us a good law, not "a fool law," requiring all the public

schools to teach the effects of alcohol, tobacco, opium and other narcotics on the human system. This was a great step in the right direction and yet only a drop in the bucket. To make an assertion is easy but to prove it is not so easy. That the best blood without proper care and training will degenerate, while the so-called "scrubs" with such care will excel, requires proof through scientific research. I don't believe that alcohol and tobacco produce insanity. Thousands and tens of thousands of bright intelligent men have used both through their long lives and never showed the least symptoms of insanity. But had there been a trace of insanity in their blood, then those narcotics would have lighted the torch and the explosion would have been felt.

You seem to think Finch's crime was due to drink and Chester Thompson's to cigarettes, yet Thompson, Thaw and thousands of others have escaped the hangman's rope through the plea of hereditary insanity. I am not taking exception to the juries' decision, but to all such unfortunates I hold that sterilization should be the remedy. And I believe that the profession would bear me out in this, for every informed physician knows the intimate relation between the brain and the organs of reproduction. And by the aid of this remedy the uncontrollable irritation of the nervous system in many cases would be relieved and the brain would assert its normal functions.

I am conscious of the fact that there are many who smile and even sneer at this measure. Only a week ago a relative said to me: "A woman of your standing should not be mixed up in such a subject." Twenty-five years ago such a rebuke would have brought a deluge of tears and rendered me nervous and sick, but not so now, for I am following out what I believe will be a great blessing to suffering humanity. I say will, because I believe it will come. My convictions have been obtained through hard trials and long research. Two years ago while talking with Representatives Farrell, Chapin, Beals and Newell, the four young men who were brave enough to champion this bill, I said to the Secretary of State who was standing by: "You approve of this measure, do you not, Mr. Dunbar?"

"Yes I do. Any one who has lived among these institutions as I have for the last few years could not do otherwise."

And now, my friend, I would advise you to study up along these lines. Perhaps a good place to apply your theory of proper care and training would be at the boys' and girls' aid societies and the reform schools, go into those charitable homes for the demented, the helpless and the vicious, where great minds have been and are devoting their lives for the betterment of those classes. And still they increase instead of diminishing. Go there and apply yourself and perhaps you may find a remedy better than sterilization.—Oregonian.

DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

HAS THE SANCTION OF GOOD WOMANHOOD.

Interesting Letter From a Well-Known Astoria Mother.

The Morning Astorian is in receipt of the following interesting and magnanimous endorsement of the legislation proposed by Dr. B. Owens-Adair in the matter of the legal sterilization of all manner of human perverts and weaklings; and it is peculiarly valuable testimony since it comes from one of the very best of Astoria's good women, one who, daring to think, dares to declare her conclusions for the good of humanity. It reads as follows:

The Morning Astorian is presenting this morning the first of a series of fine papers written by Dr. B. Owens-Adair, of this county, on the subject of her proposed legislation in behalf of human sterilization and the mitigation of all physical and mental and moral perversion, and the criminal tendency generally, in human society. There will be a number of these during the winter and they will be of exceeding interest and even concern to this people and to those in a constantly growing field that must eventually become world-wide

The plea set up by Clatsop's most excellent citizens and clever professional representative sounds on its initial utterance to the unexpecting ear harsh and radical, an extremity even; but the more it is considered in the light of the need for some efficacious remedy for the ills of "the flesh and the devil", the more it recommends itself to the intelligent and humane principle in man and woman, and will, if cultivated, and reduced to its simplest and best expedience of application and method, become one of the cardinal rules of a better, freer, and nobler existence. The communication reads as follows:

"To the Editor—Two years ago I called upon the Legislature of Oregon to enact a law to prevent a further propagation of criminal idiots and insane through sterilization. A few years ago the community would have been shocked by the mere mention of such a process, but we are rapidly growing broader, and wiser.. Even the common people are being educated up to a reasoning standpoint through our public schools one of the strong arms of our nation which is reaching out and taking in all that is in reach that will benefit the young.

"The rapid increase of insanity and vicious elements is simply appalling; the penitentiaries, insane asylums, reform schools and homes for all kinds of defections has not only become a burden to our commonwealth but a menace as well and if allowed to proceed, where will it end? This is a pitiful calamity, one which every thinking man and woman understands and for which a remedy must be found. I realize that this is a delicate thing to handle and for that reason it has

not heretofore been brought before the public, but it must be handled without gloves, from a scientific point, which is only common sense extended. I have no fears but it will stand upon its own merits, only let in the light of reason and the clouds of prejudice and ignorance will disappear.

"This remedy will bring untold blessings to the unfortunates themselves both in health and disposition. The only loss to them would be the power of reproducing their kind which should not be allowed. We all know the effect of sterilization on the lower animals, they soon cease to be vicious and become quite pliable and affectionate. You may object to this comparison but comparative anatomy teaches us the truth of this assertion. It is well known that the law of transmission is a radical law both in animal and human life.

"It is true that it may skip one or even two generations but in time will gather force and assert its power for good or evil. So well is law understood that the majority of murders committed are defended upon the plea of hereditary insanity. If we had a law requiring the sterilization of every criminal who made insanity a plea for defense the insanity dodge would not be so frequent. Look at our own recent tragedy a vicious and vindictive man deliberately walks into an office and shoots down a good Christian man in the bloom of his usefulness, bringing sorrow to his young wife and baby. Had the murderer been well born he never could have committed such a foul deed. And now like Chester Thompson, the boy fiend of Seattle, he may be freed and allowed to go forth to transmit his vicious blood to unborn children, which will multiply and increase with the growth of the child until something happens to bring the fiery demon to the surface and then the explosion takes place and the fearful shock is felt. No amount of training or education can completely eradicate such hereditary traits.

"Therefore, I say that every child has a right to be well born, and no vicious person should be allowed to propagate his kind by contaminating the blood of the helpless unborn child. Let us put a stop to the further building of penitentiaries, insane asylums, reform schools and homes for the defectives. These are the sins that the Bible tells us are visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation. Should we permit these sins to be transmitted? Now I call upon you, our Legislators, you whom the public have elected to enact good wholesome laws for the preservation and protection of our state. I beg that you take this home to your hearts and then cast your vote for your homes and the homes of your neighbors. Then Oregon will give you thanks and the unborn in time will rise and call you blessed. Set the example and other states will follow.

"DR. OWENS-ADAIR."

Dear Sir:—I as a reader of your valued paper was greatly pleased to see the fearless way in which you with good terse and graphic editorial comment recently published the communication of Dr. Owens-Adair by which you proclaimed to all who read and think your fearless advocacy of all that goes for the betterment of human society and human advancement and endeavors, not only as to community interests but for the nobler interests that do and must be for the greater good that stands upon a higher plane and looks out upon a world about you from which you are freed from any personal thought of aggrandizement or anything other than the nobler love of human freedom. The freedom of which the Christ spoke when he said "Knowing the truth and the truth will make you free." There is only one thing in the realm of thought and that is truth, and all that is false must sooner or later be pruned away, leaving only the one thing bare before the mind, finite and infinite, and that is truth, and as we grow and think, so are we, that which we make ourselves, true or false. Now in regard to this law of heredity of which Dr. Owens-Adair so wisely speaks to a waiting world of helpless human creatures who have from the dawn of consecutive human thought, been battling with these awful human problems of evils which have gone on and on before it was called out in human pain and agony "The sin of the fathers are visited upon the children from generation to generation" and still after these thousands of years the awful agony is still with us and before us and so little has been done to ameliorate the evils which we in a mistaken way foster instead of eradicating.

Our insane asylums, our idiot asylums, our homes for the reclamation of the fallen, our penitentiaries and reform schools and many charitable institutions too numerous to mention, are all places which when looked upon from an humanitarian standpoint are terrible menaces to human advancement as now conducted from mistaken humanitarian standpoints. How much more sensible to do as the wise ones of the earth, the best scientific thought and research now is beginning to advocate and must if fearlessly carried out "Make us free" as we were intended by God to be, free from the debasing things of wrong thinking, which is not of a spirit born to everlasting, but of a spirit bound to an earth life of physical, moral and mental disease which the "Dead in sin" of which the greatest of all preachers wrote and spoke to the people of his time and to all future generations, the inspired Saint Paul. None of these things are new, they are as old as human law and as old as God's laws which no man can break. The poor human entity can only break itself against the solid law of the moral nature. But the law still stands intact and always will, so we must come to law, law does not come to us, law was before humanity and so will be when time shall be no more. Therefore why not try to begin that which is the only thing there is to do, to help law and order in a world of law and order. That

is to face these truths in a fearless and honest endeavor to do that which has not the sanction of tradition and the groping endeavor of past ages of human ignorance and misconception of moral and physical law. But is placed now upon the lower round of a mental awakening to the imminent needs of the things before us now today to be done to free the coming generation from the awful nightmare of crime, insanity and suffering. Think of the ever accumulating burden of taxation to try to restrain the hereditarily viscious, the insane, the idiotic and the lustful hereditary taints that defy all law, both human and divine and the world is peopled with criminals who are daily committing kleptomaniacal thefts, suicides, murders in roundabout ways, adulteries, fornications, lying, perjury, drunkenness, and no way of reaching such, even by moral suasion, because they are "Dead in sin," care for nothing except to evade law, not to uphold it, and much of this is fostered by misdirected sympathy, wrongly used wealth called charity, which is only maudlin, irresponsible coddling of crime, perversion of weak moral stamina that is not at all worth propping or saving in that way. But the weak should be hedged about and guarded against themselves by restoring to them the means which is used so effectively upon the lower and much less dangerous animals upon whom without any compunction whatever we render in our knowledge of self defense harmless. So may we not go a step farther and remove this awful menace of dumb helpless grief we feel before the insane, idiotic, irresponsible criminal with which we are burdened and for whose restraint and for whose keeping we are so grievously burdened. It is for these that armies of physicians and nurses, attendants and guards and keepers, as the keepers of wild caged beasts are employed at such enormous expense by enlightened nations, the contemplation of it all is so horrible that it makes the soul sick to even try to think of it.

MRS. OLIVA REES WELCH.

HEROIC MEASURE TO BE PRESENTED SOON.

Text of Dr. Owens-Adair's Bill for the Sterilization of Humanity.

The Morning Astorian has had a good deal to say, at one time and another, in regard to the proposed legislation about to be introduced at Salem at the instance of Dr. B. Owens-Adair of this county, and which is causing wide and interested comment here and all over the States of Oregon and Washington; and in behalf of the growing sentiment in favor of this heroic, yet sound, plea for the up-lift of physical, mental and moral humanity, this paper now has pleasure in presenting the text of the proposed bill; in order to give

the reading public a fundamental idea of the proposition and to show how great a matter may be compassed in a meagre space. It reads as follows:

"An act providing for the sterilization of criminals, epileptics, insane, and all feeble-minded persons.

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Oregon:

"Section 1. That criminals, epileptics, insane, and all feeble-minded persons committed to any State institution of the State of Oregon, shall be sterilized, except such as in the judgement of a legally appointed board of examiners, whose duty it shall be to pass upon each and every case, are exempted.

"Section 2. It shall then become the duty of the physicians in charge of the various State institutions to execute the provisions of this act."

MAN'S BIRTHRIGHT HIS SUPREME CLAIM

Clever Article on Doctrine Set Forth by Dr. Owens-Adair

Editor Morning Astorian:

I insist that I am entitled to certain inalienable rights of birth, due to me from that generation which preceded and brought me into existence. I am the innocent product of that part of human society; and upon them devolved the responsibility of giving me all possible advantages to wage the battle of life successfully. I am entitled to a sound body, untainted by ills sinfully contracted by my progenitors. I am entitled to a clear intellect, undimmed by reason of alcoholic and toxic drug addiction on the part of those who incidentally or intentionally procreated my brain. I am entitled to natural tendencies toward that which is uplifting to the human race, unimpeded by degenerative habits wrongfully contracted by any one instrumental in my advent. I am entitled to parents who are not degrading to me by reason of being criminals hampering my progress toward high ideals by unmerited disgrace.

The right to all possible assistance in being better, smarter, healthier, and more noble, from those who have immediately preceded me, is my birth-right, and if I have not been accorded my rights, and if you have not been accorded your rights, then it is high time that we, as responsible members of human society, endeavor to provide against such monstrous wrongs being perpetrated against children yet unborn.

Theorists may proclaim these truisms, and philosophers may admit them, but through the medical profession must come the practical methods of securing results if they are ever to be achieved. "Undesirable citizens" should not be propagated. If the family does not properly control the product to this end, society should step in and control the family by means which will insure the desired result. Habitual criminals have no right to propagate children with criminal tendencies, and people who are afflicted with disease which we know renders their offspring weaklings, should not want to bring unfortunates into the world to live a life of suffering, short though it may be. This matter has been called idealistic and visionary, but is not. It is the human perfection in practical way. Punishment for crime has been largely in the nature of revenge, which is entirely wrong. As an example which will deter future commission, and as a corrective of criminal tendency, punishment may be of some service to society, but a punishment that will actually prevent future crime is of far greater service to mankind. What more logical and appropriate punishment for rape than sterilization? When, from some unfortunate physical condition, a man should be prevented from procreating, how proper and at the same time personally beneficial it would be, to occlude the spermatic ducts by a drop of carbolic acid hypodermically injected, turning back the secretion to reinforce the vital powers while reproduction is stopped.

How illogical is restriction of marriage. If marriage had no other motive than reproduction, then restriction might be right. And if reproduction could be restricted to wedlock, restriction might be right. But there is a sweet companionship in wedlock not based upon sexuality which human beings have a right to enjoy. Medical science can painlessly, perfectly, easily and properly prevent the propagation of both physical and moral degenerates if directed to do so by the laws of the land. Society has the right to make rules for its welfare, and what line of procedure could be more uplifting to the race than eliminating physically, mentally and mortally and morally imperfect members by wise and righteous prevention. The earth is fast approaching human repletion, and the quantity of human beings is of far less importance than quality. Procreation being based upon physical tendencies almost exclusively the majority of the product naturally comes from those in the lower grades of society, and from families restricted by poverty from many of the advantages which a child should be entitled to receive.

A properly bred and well brought up individual is a great advantage to society, but a degenerate is a burden for which there is no good excuse. It is absolutely incompatible with right to destroy the degenerate or infirm, but human sympathy and nobility of spirit are not outraged by proper and wise prevention. How truly appropriate the admonition given to the violator of sexual law as he arises from the operating table, "Go and sin no more."

It is a well known fact that the sterilized man soon becomes mild-mannered and to a certain extent effeminate, a change in the tendencies of almost any criminal which would be truly desirable and greatly to be wished for. While the man who is thus simply treated not only retains all of his manly tendencies but adds to the sum of his usual vigor the vivifying influence of retained material having the highest known vital composition. Thus the two methods serve to correct wrong in either case appropriately, punishing the guilty by a penalty which is truly abhorrent, while acting as an effective preventive of progeny, and improving the physical chances of the unfortunate invalid while protecting society against propagation of his infirmity.

DR. CHAS. C. C. ROSENBERG.

Astoria, Oregon.

DR. OWENS-ADAIR FIGHTS HER CASE

Replies to Attack and Gives List of Doctors Indorsing Her Bill.

WARRENTON, Or., Dec. 28.—(To the Editor of The Telegram,)—Will you give me space to reply briefly to Eleanor Baldwin, who has devoted a full column of sarcastic ridicule of me in a recent issue of your paper. She starts out with "Mrs. Owens-Adair, a woman of unusual force of character." She calls me "the doughty little Dr. Owens-Adair," says that if she belonged to the parliament of eugenics she would demand my extinction; that I belong to the only dangerous class that never seeks to discover the cause of evils, but contents themselves by whacking at the effects. Now, this kind of ironical sarcasm does not affect my sensitive nature in the least. That time has passed. Neither does it deter me from pursuing the course which to my mind is the best for the good of humanity. I am always ready and willing to meet an opponent to discuss a question in a respectable way, but I never throw dirt, for that is not argument. Consider this dispatch from Chicago:

"December 16, 1908.—Insanity grows three times as fast in proportion as the increase in population in the United States." Now, Eleanor Baldwin, what remedy have you to offer for this state of affairs? Just take your pencil and compute this ratio and then tell us where it will land us 50 years hence if this malady is not checked. Now give us your plan and show us how and why it should succeed. I am always open to conviction and require only proof to acknowledge my mistakes, I would gently suggest, my lady, that you go to the farm and there learn what this simple and benign remedy is doing and has done for the wild, the vicious and uncontrollable animals for centuries. Then go to the fountainhead of the medical science and

learn there how thousands of helpless mothers who, with a taint of insanity in their blood, have been snatched from that terrible condition (insanity), far worse than death, by this safe and harmless process. Then give us facts and not theories. We want the truth, for the truth will stand and hurts no one. And I will repeat again that every well-informed physician knows the intimate relation of the brain with the reproductive organs, and they are and will support this bill, which is meant to be a remedy, but not a "cure all." I append my proposed bill with the editorial introduction by a man with a clear head and executive ability.

DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

STERILIZATION IS OPPOSED.

INSANE PATIENTS REPLY TO DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

One Says Flagrant Ignorance and Fanatical Rage Permeate Her Utterance on the Subject.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Dr. Owens-Adair, of Warrenton, Or., who has been conducting a campaign for several years in behalf of the enactment of a law for the sterilization of the criminal insane, has at least two earnest opponents in the criminal ward at the State Insane Asylum. In fact, she has more than two, for since the appearance of her communication in *The Oregonian* of December 12 the inmates of that ward have been very much wrought up over the subject she has brought to the attention of the Oregon Legislature. Two inmates of the ward have undertaken to express their own views, and, presumably, those of their fellows, and they have done this in letters written to Dr. A. E. Tamasie, physician in charge of the ward in which they live. Each of them writes a good hand, uses good language and is evidently of more than ordinary intelligence, aside from the mental infirmity indicated by confinement in the institution.

Charles O. Engelke opens his letter by taking Dr. Owens-Adair to task for referring to the "common people." He deprecates this effort to make class distinctions as un-American.—*Oregonian*.

A CHILD'S RIGHT TO BE "WELL BORN."

WARRENTON, Or., Dec. 29.—(To the Editor.)—It seems that I have stirred up a hornet's nest in the criminal insane wards at Salem. I suppose the next bugle note will come from the penitentiary. Who those two worthies are I know not, but one thing I know, that is,

that I am contributing to their support, to their daily bread, while they are living in idleness. "From the sweat of thy brow shalt thou earn thy bread," does not belong to their "class," and this enforced taxation is a great argument in favor of my proposed law.

Once a poor parishoner went to his minister begging for help for his poor, sick wife and ten scrofulous children. The minister said, "Yes help him, brethren, help him by all means, but with the distinct understanding that he shall not increase his miserable family," Now like the sensible and benevolent minister, we are willing to care for this unfortunate class throughout their lives and then give them a Christian burial, but we object to the increase.

These criminal correspondents have brought out two points worthy of notice; the term "Common people." Who are the common people? Their name is legion. Christ, the carpenter's son, born of the Virgin Mary, had not where to lay his head. Abraham Lincoln, one of the world's greatest benefactors, too poor to afford a candle, studied by the light of a pine torch or a lighted rag in a cup of grease; the emigrants who toiled across the trackless plains, over mountains and through deserts amid the scorching sun and the storms of snow and ice; ragged and footsore but never flinching. These were the common people who gave this state to the Union and added one more star to our Nation's flag. I am proud to belong to that "class."

Second: Yes, I repeat, a child has a right to be "well born." It matters not whether it is born in a hut or palace, if its parents are intelligent, industrious and honest, whose blood is free from objectionable hereditary taints, that child will be well born and its life will be a blessing to humanity. But if it is brought into the world by vicious, depraved and diseased parents then its life will be a blight to humanity. And again I repeat that the time has come that a remedy must be found to stop this increase. And I believe that the medical profession will stand by me. Every doctor in this country has signed my petition, save one, and he is a Finn from Finland.—Oregonian.

DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

Members of Multnomah Medical Association:

Portland, Oregon, January 20, 1909.

I shall not take your time by a drawn out speech, for I know that each and every one of you understand that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. You understand the laws of transmission through propagation. You are all conversant with the great increase of insanity and crime today. You all know and feel the great burden of taxation for the support of those objectionable classes, and now I come to you with the hope and belief that you

will indorse this bill and thereby assist me in this very disagreeable work. You know I have been a member of the State Medical Association for more than a quarter of a century, but as I have retired from active practice I feel that I have now time to devote to the work of humanity, and I believe that the greatest good to future generations must come through purifying the source of reproduction. And now I ask you as members of our profession to assist me in this great work. This is no laughing matter, as I said to one of our representatives on last Monday who were trying, to make a jest "You are making laws to protect the birds, and wild beasts, why not make laws to protect your innocent children and your children's children." And here is my bill, which only deals with the vilest elements. Every physician in Clatsop County save one, a Finn, have signed this petition. And now I am hoping for an indorsement from this society. The society referred the matter to a committee of three to report at the next meeting. Dr. Amus favored my bill and said at least one state had the law, as he had seen a reference to it, in the A. M. journal. No one else had heard of it.

To the Editor Oregonian:

Accept my thanks for the wide and extended circulation, together with the favorable introduction which you have given my proposed legislative measure for the prevention of the propagation of objectionable classes through sterilization. Every paper to which I have sent communications, have honored me, and several have written fine editorial commendations. I was especially pleased to find my last communication on your editorial page. For every great reader and thinker today, turns first to the editorial page for the best and latest in progress and advancement. In the Oregonian of Dec. 21st, I said, that every well informed physician knew the intimate relation between the brain and the reproductive organs, and that I believed the profession would stand by me in this movement. Now here is the proof of this assertion: On Monday last I called upon every physician in Astoria, thirteen in number, and I am proud to say that every one, save one (A "Fin" from Finland) signed my petition and in addition gave me their hearty approval of the proposed law. I shall be in Portland within a few days and shall call upon my brother and sister M. D's for their support, and I feel confident that it will be as freely given as was that of the Astoria doctors.

And now Mr. Editor, here is my proposed bill which speaks for itself and to which are attached the names of Astoria's most honorable physicians.

Seattle, Wash., Dr. C. W. Sharples; Dr. Jas. B. Eagleson; Dr. A. B. Harrison; Dr. S. J. Dean; Dr. Geo. M. Horton; Dr. John Nyrvening. North Yakima, Wash., Dr. J. B. Burns; Dr. H. R. Wells; Dr. C. W. Chompton; Dr. Geo. Sloan; Dr. Thomas Tetrean; Dr.

David Rosser; Dr. C. G. Feltcher; Dr. W. H. Carver; Dr. P. Frank; Dr. H. Hilton. Astoria, Oregon, Dr. J. A. Fulton; Dr. J. M. Holt; Dr. C. B. Estes; Dr. C. W. Reames; Dr. H. L. Henderson; Dr. Alfred Kinney; Dr. N. B. Vernon; Dr. Jay Tuttle; Dr. R. J. Pilkington; Dr. W. Lagus; Dr. A. A. Finch; Dr. C. C. Rosenberg. Weston Ore., Dr. S. L. Corp

BILL MADE INEFFECTIVE.

STERILIZATION MEASURE IS RUINED IN COMMITTEE.

Made to Apply Only to Classes Which Could Have No Need of Heroic Treatment Proposed.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Jan. 28.—(Special.)—The Senate committee on penal institutions has amended Dr. Owens-Adair's sterilization bill to such an extent as to make it of no practical value whatever.

The bill was designed to authorize the sterilization of the criminal insane, and confine criminals so that the transmission of insanity and criminal tendencies shall be restricted.

The committee on penal institutions obtains the adoption of an amendment which provides that sterilization shall be resorted to only in case of insane persons whose mental condition will probably not improve and in the case of rapists and other criminals serving a third term in the penitentiary.

As amended, the bill applies to very few criminals, for the number who go to the penitentiary a third time is exceedingly small.

So far as the insane are concerned, the bill is now equally ineffective. Those persons whose mental condition cannot be improved will not be discharged from the asylum. Those who may improve but who cannot be entirely cured, are the ones discharged and they are the ones who may transmit insanity to their descendants.—Oregonian.

DR. ADAIR SATISFIED WITH AMENDMENT.

Her Famous Bill Passes The Senate And is Now Before The House.

The following cheerful letter has just been received from Dr. B. Owens Adair, of this county, with regard to her bill, now one

of the famous provisions before the Oregon Legislature.

It is a substitute for her original measure, and to the casual reader seems to have been shorn of all its essential strength; but if the good doctor is satisfied with this, as an "opening wedge" as she calls it, then no one else may justly complain of it. It is Senate substitute bill No. 68, and is now before the House of Representatives. Her letter is as follows:

"Salem, Ore., February 1, 1909.

"Editor Astorian:

"With great pleasure I now send you a copy of my bill which has just passed the Senate by two-thirds majority. I cannot express my great satisfaction for this victory, and I have fine hope of success in the House. One of the members of the House said: "I hope we may pass it with at least 48 votes."

"This is a substitute for my first bill, at my own request, for I found that it would be impossible to pass the first bill. The Oregonian says the committee spoiled the bill by amending it. But there is a great deal in this bill, and it will be an opening wedge for many improvements, if it becomes a law. I shall stay here till I know the fate of the bill; then off to Olympia.

"I visited the O. A. College last Saturday with the members of the Legislature. Which confirms the opinion which I have had for many years that is, that an agriculture college is of far more worth to any State, than a university.

"DR. OWENS-ADAIR."

Following is the amended text of the measure as it passed the Senate:

"A Bill"

"For an act entitled an act to prevent procreation of confirmed criminals, insane persons, idiots, imbeciles, and rapists; providing that superintendents and boards of managers of institutions where such persons are confined shall have the authority and are empowered to appoint a committee of experts, consisting of two (2) physicians, to examine into the mental condition of such inmates, and to define who shall be deemed confirmed criminals within the provisions of this act.

"Be it enacted by the people of the State of Oregon:

"Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

"Section 1. From and after the passage of this act it shall be compulsory for each and every institution in the State entrusted with the care of confirmed criminals, insane persons, idiots, rapists and imbeciles, to appoint upon its staff, in addition to the regular institutional physicians, two (2) skilled surgeons of recognized ability, whose duty it shall be, in conjunction with the chief physician of the institution, to examine the mental and physical condition of such inmates as are recommended by the institutional physician and board of managers. If, in the judgment of this committee of experts and the board of managers, procreation is inadvisable and there is no probability of improvement of the mental condition of the inmates, it shall be lawful for the surgeons to perform such operation for the prevention of procreation as shall be decided safest and most effective; but this operation shall not be performed except in cases that have been pronounced unimprovable.

"The term 'confirmed criminals,' as contained in this act, shall be deemed to apply to and include all persons serving a third term in any penitentiary or penal institution upon conviction of a felony."
—Astorian.

STANDING BY HER BILL AT STATE CAPITAL.

Dr. Adair Making a Winning Fight for Her Measure.

Dr. B. Owens-Adair of this city and county, is still standing steadfastly by her bill for the sterilization of criminals and perverts. The matter is well past the stage of coarse jests and is making friends right and left, upon its inherent and intrinsic merits:

Salem, Or., February, 9, 1909.

"Editor Astorian:

"Here I am ready to report progress. For I know that many of my friends are anxiously looking to the Daily Astorian for news of my 'famous bill.' It is now in the hands of the penal and reformatory committee and I am expecting to be called before them this evening. And I hope I shall be able to flash the good news to the Astorian. I am very anxious to leave for Olympia but I will not go as long as there is a hope of securing one more vote. If all vote for the bill that have promised, then it will go to the Governor, and he is in favor of the bill. For two of the committee have promised to report favorably. The free discussion of this subject seems to be favorable and the great majority favor the bill. A gentleman came to me, saying, 'I should like to ask you a few questions,' he said, 'I never heard or thought of the subject till I heard you talking in

the Statesman office, but I have heard hundreds of men talking of it since, and they all say it's a good bill.' I am happy to know that this measure has passed the stage of coarse jests and silly laughter. It has reached a higher plane and thousands are beginning to realize the far-reaching benefits to humanity that may be derived through this simpler scientific remedy which is fraught with no danger whatever.—Astorian

Mrs. Owens-Adair is before the legislature advocating the most radical measure looking to decrease of crime in the future. It is several years since the use of the surgeon's knife was timidly suggested by scientists and criminologists, but now an educated, cultured woman of Oregon stands forth as a positive advocate of the proposition. There are many arguments in its favor and the next ten years will see it in operation in many states.—Statesman.

DR. OWENS-ADAIR HAS NEW BILL TO OFFER.

NOTED PHYSICIAN IS HERE TO PRESS MEASURE TO PREVENT PROCREATION OF INSANE.

She Will Ask That Indiana Statute, Which Has Been in Force For
Two Years, Be Substituted for One Originally Offered And
Now in Hands of Committee—Initiative Next Step.

Dr. Owens-Adair of Sunnymede, Oregon, is in the city in the interests of her bill to sterilize the criminal insane and other unfortunates and believes that the revised bill she has under consideration will pass the legislature almost unanimously. Some time ago the doctor had drafted a bill including the hopelessly insane, the convicts in the state penitentiary serving two or more terms and other unfortunates. The new bill, however, leaves out the penitentiary and will apply only to the certain classes of inmates at the asylum, and homes for the feeble minded. Dr. Owens-Adair learned a few days ago that a bill of this kind had been in force in Indiana for some time and is giving excellent satisfaction, not only to the State officials and the public but even to the inmates and their families. She immediately set about to secure a copy of the measure and only succeeded in doing so yesterday. The doctor will ask that the Indiana bill be substituted for the one now in the hands of a committee and this no doubt will be done and it is believed the bill will pass.

The Indiana bill became a law two years ago, at the same time that Mrs. Owens-Adair was in Salem trying to have a measure of this kind passed. She states that if she fails this time the next step will be to refer the bill to the people under the initiative and referendum. She believes however that the bill will become a law at this session without much difficulty.

The doctor is seeking also to have a similar measure passed in the state of Washington and will leave here in a few days for Olympia.

Dr. Owens-Adair was for many years an ardent advocate of Prohibition and is known throughout Oregon and other coast states, having traveled extensively on lecturing tours and for the purpose of putting her charitable and reform ideas into effect.—Salem Statesman.

CRIMINAL PROCREATION.

Senate Bill No. 68 for the prevention of procreation in confirmed criminals, insane persons, idiots, imbeciles and rapists passed the senate Monday by a vote of two to one. This is a measure long neglected but strictly in the interest of humanity.

It is not a question affecting only the unfortunates mentioned in the act, but the objection is to reduce the number of criminals, insane, etc. Morally, every child has a right to be well born and any measure looking to this end is justifiable and right.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

Sees a Medical Tyranny.

BALLSTON, Ore., Feb. 3.—(To the Editor of the Telegram.)—This is an age of the knife and the pistol—the knife in the hands of the medicos, the pistol wielded by believers in the “unwritten law.” Henry George remarked that the indications are that we are slowly drifting back to barbarism, and the passage of the sterilization bill by an Oregon Senate is one of the signs. The medical fraternity has of late developed such an appetite for carving living human bodies that they now seek by law for further opportunity to glut this craving. Carlyle asserted that the English people were “mostly fools,” and this great American people seem to be piling up facts to prove that they belong in the same category. The church has lost its authoritative grip on society, but we are allowing the doctors to become our masters. Does any one of the sane 10 Senators who voted against the bill believe that we can afford to put such a power in the hands of the doctors? “Insane persons and idiots”—truly one must assume that the 20 Senators voting for this bill should be

the first ones to be operated on under its provisions if it becomes a law. And who can tell what the unfortunates immured in state institutions, away from outside aid, may have to undergo at the hands of irresponsible man-carvers? In Lee's history of the Mormon movement there are tales of a butcher-knife and a gag that give one the creeps; and a fraternity that carves and bares the nerves of live rabbits and dogs is likely to have few scruples about "experimenting" on helpless prisoners with the anesthetics omitted. Also, who is safe from being declared insane when one thinks of the conflicting testimony of "experts" in cases like that of Harry Thaw?

Nor is this all. The physicians' graft once established by the passage of the Cole bill, the next demand will be for the sterilization of those whom some incompetent doctor has declared unfit for marriage. One would think that the most fanatical heredity crank would hardly dare assert that the crop of criminals and insane would be sufficiently lessened by such measures for the people to pay such a price in loss of personal rights. For the crop of convicts and criminally insane does not by any means depend on criminal parentage, but is more often derived from smug and conventionally respectable fathers and mothers. Alfred Russell Wallace in the Arena once cited a long list of eminent men who apparently derived none of their talents and virtues from hereditary—their parentage promising nothing in the way of such results.

All honor to the Woman's Viewpoint editor of the Telegram for daring to stand almost alone in opposition to the infamous sterilization bill.

WALLACE YATES.

State House February 9, 1909.

Editor Telegram:—Once more, I ask space to reply to Walter Yates, who attacks me most furiously, including the medical profession and making a target of the 20 senators who voted for my bill, a half column of verbiage is used to show what a vile set we are. Really after reading that vicious attack I drew a long breath and felt like I had escaped from the fiery furnace of his Satanic Majesty. Now my friend, this kind of verbosity, is not argument, and I advise you and your co-workers, Miss Baldwin, to get down to business, if you are in earnest, get out and do something, give your time and money as I am doing, if you really wish to benefit the classes in question. When I came here a month ago I found few in favor of this bill, simply because it was a new departure, which required thought and consideration. I am here to explain, as best I can the great benefits that must come through this benign remedy, that there has been earnest and sincere thought, on this subject has been shown by the senate vote of two to one. I have no harsh epithets or unkind feelings for the 10 senators who did not vote for my bill.

I give them credit for voting conscientiously as every honorable person should do. I believe in the old adage "Evil is to him that evil thinketh." The principal objection to this bill has been, the fear that it may be abused, I cannot see how that could happen as the boards of examiners and managers of such institutions are made up as a rule of men and women who have spent years in human work and are competent judges, they may not all be doctors and if they were, they would be human doctors and not "blood thirsty villains", that is simply gross and malicious slander. Our country is waking up to the realization that something must be done for our future posterity if our nation is to perpetuate. It is the full time that the child is heard. Thank God Indiana heard that pitiable cry two years ago and Oregon will, I believe, in the next few days follow in her wise footsteps and give us a law that will begin the purification of the great turbulent rivers of life, by cutting off some of the contaminating and vicious inflows. Now Mr. Yates to prevent the recurrence of another like spasm I will prescribe a soothing lotion for your super-setimentality (for this much abused class.) By informing you that the operation for sterilization does not necessitate pain or loss of blood, and the subject can return to work in 5 minutes and not realize that he has lost anything and indeed he has not for his loss will prove to be his everlasting gain, so you see that your sympathy and that of your co-worker has been lost. Sterilization is a science of recent discovery and will prove to be one of the greatest blessings to humanity.

STERILIZATION BILL.

To Come up Tomorrow For Trial Passage in Oregon House.

"Salem, Or., February 12, 1909.

"Editor Astorian:

"My bill was adopted and placed on file by the House last night at 9 o'clock, having passed the committee on medicine and pharmacy by a unanimous vote; and I hope to hear it called up for vote as early as Monday. My hopes are high that I will win. Two of the best speakers in the House are friends to the bill, "The Little Giant", and a big man with a big heart. I am working hard for a two-thirds majority. It is simply wonderful the change of feeling that has come over the people in regard to this bill. A hotelkeeper said to me last night "The people sit around the fire morning, noon and night, talking about this bill, and at least 80 per cent are in favor of it."

"Illinois is now fighting for such a law. The application of this remedy for both men and women is simple and of recent discovery.

And like the wireless telegraph it will revolutionize society by becoming a wonderful purifier of the great turbulent river of life by cutting off the vicious sewers of sin, disease and ignorance. It will prove a "balm of gilead" to those poor unfortunate classes who will in time learn to seek the remedy and bless the giver.

"DR. OWENS-ADAIR."

OWENS-ADAIR BILL PASSES.

Only Chronic Prisoners and Hopelessly Insane Affected.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, February 17.—(Special.)—The Owens-Adair Senate bill, providing for sterilization of persons incurably insane and third term convicts, passed the House today and will now go to the Governor for his approval. As the Governor is known to be favorable to a measure of that kind, it is probable he will let it become a law.

As passed, the bill will apply to very few people who ever regain their freedom, but it is the commencement of a policy which may later be extended so as to be of material effect in preventing the multiplication of the criminal and insane.

The vote upon the bill was unanimous, except that Bedillion, Bones, Brattain, Brooke and Hughes voted "No."

STERILIZATION BILL PASSED.

SALEM, February 17.—With only five dissenting votes, Dr. Owens Adair's bill providing for the sterilization of the criminally insane men convicted of assaults and confirmed criminals, passed the house just before noon today.

The bill had already passed the senate, and now only requires the approval of the governor to become operative. Those who opposed the bill were Representatives Brooke, Brattain, Bedillion, Bones and Hughes. Those absent were Bean, Belknap, Brady, Bryant and Corrigan.

Representative Farrell was the champion of the measure on the floor of the house. He read letters from the superintendents of the Wisconsin and Indiana penitentiaries who recommended the process. Out of 223 convicts operated on in Indiana 217 had voluntarily asked to have the operation performed, according to figures quoted by Farrell.

Little argument was required, and the house was impatient during Farrell's short address. No one opposed the measure in the house except by their votes. Dr. Adair sat in the lobby during the vote, and was congratulated by many members of the house when the result of the vote was announced.

The bill provides that it shall be compulsory upon every institution of the state entrusted with the care of confirmed criminals, insane persons, rapeists, idiots and imbeciles, to appoint upon its staff, in addition to the regular institutional physicians, two skilled surgeons of recognized ability whose duty it shall be, with the chief physician of the institution, to examine the mental and physical condition of such inmates as are recommended by the institutional physician and board of managers. If in the judgment of this committee of experts procreation is inadvisable, and there is no probability of improvement in the mental condition of the inmate, it shall be lawful for the surgeons to perform such operation for the prevention of procreation as shall be decided safest and most effective, but this operation shall not be performed except in cases that have been pronounced unimprovable.

The act specifies further that the term "confirmed criminals" shall be deemed to apply to and include all persons serving a third term in any penitentiary or penal institution upon conviction of a felony.

DR. ADAIR'S BILL MISSES HURDLE.

GOVERNOR KILLS OFF HER PET STERILIZATION MEASURE.

Has Only Four Left To Handle; Has Vetoed 52.

The Owens-Adair sterilization bill fell before the veto of the Governor this morning, for the reason that the language of the bill is not as clear and specific as a criminal statute should be. Since the legal authority for the performance of the operation known as sterilization would have to be unquestionable, the Governor took the view that the bill passed by the recent Legislature should be vetoed.

Dr. B. Owens-Adair, of this city and county, the author of the now famous "sterilization" bill, lately passed by the Oregon Legislature, and more recently vetoed by Governor Chamberlain, arrived

home on the noon train yesterday, and seemed quite cheerful in the face of the fater to which she had been subjected by his excellency. She told the Morning Astorian, however, "that while the Governor has chloroformed my bill, it is not dead; it is sleeping quietly; and will soon awake, refreshed, fully restored, and ready to assert its rights."—Astorian.

February 25th, 1909.

Doctor Owens-Adair, Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mrs. Adair:—After looking over Senate Bill Number 68 I have concluded that it is so loosely drawn and so poorly safe-guards the rights of the unfortunate (against whom it is directed) that I deemed it my duty to veto it.

When I first talked to you about the matter, without knowing the terms of the Bill in detail, I was disposed to favor it but I think such a Bill ought to be so carefully safe-guarded that no abuses could be practiced against it, and I feel that this is not the case with the bill under consideration.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

GEO. A. CHAMBERLAIN.

In presenting the Governors letter, I will say that he is the only person who has claimed (to my knowledge) that the bill is loosely drawn or that it was not sufficiently safe-guarded.

I called on the Governor and said "Governor, you are in favor of my bill are you not? "Yes, I am". Then I shall not look for a veto from you. "No unless those fellows up there put something in it that ought, not to be there." I wish to make it emphatic that "those fellows" did not put anything in my bill, and he knew it too, for I had asked the committee to substitute the Indiana law for my bill, as it was not so radical and had been tried two years and proved to be good as thousands had testified. Governor Chamberlain vetoed my bill out of his sympathy for that class who are a curse to humanity. He did not or could not understand what a blessed boon the law would be to that very class whose crimes and passions he was protecting against, the honest votes of 70 men who had thought seriously on the subject and then voted their honest conviction. I wish to state that at the extra session I interviewed four members who were absent when the vote was taken, and they assured me that they would have voted for the bill, had they been there, which would have made 74 votes. Certainly few Oregon bills have received more earnest consideration and few have received a higher vote under such conditions. In vetoing the marriage bill, the governor gave as his reason that he considered it an insult to the young manhood of Oregon. He did not I believe include the

young womanhood of Oregon. One of our Oregon senators in replying to the Governor said "No pure minded young man would be insulted or object to such a marriage law."

DEATH BED MEETING IN PENITENTIARY.

CONVICT MOTHER BIDS GOODBYE TO HUSBAND AND SON, ALSO CONVICTS, IN PRISON.

Mrs. Wilson, Alias Staffeback, 79 Years Old, Dies While Serving Sentence for Murder—Was a Noted Criminal.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., March 9.—Mrs. Nancy Wilson, generally known as Mrs. Staffeback, one of the most notorious women prisoners in the Kansas penitentiary, died of pneumonia today. Mrs. Staffeback was 79 years old.

Mrs. Staffeback realized her serious condition and asked that her son, George Staffeback, a lifetime convict, and Charles Wilson, her second husband, another convict, be brought to her bedside. They were taken over by the prison officials and told they could remain with her until she died.

Seeks Death in Freedom.

George Staffeback, her son, nearly collapsed when brought to his mother's cell. He asked if something could not be done so that his mother might die outside the penitentiary. The mother, who was conscious, begged to be permitted to die outside. The prison officials told her they could do nothing.

Mrs. Staffeback was brought to the penitentiary to serve a 21-year sentence for murder in the second degree. At the same time two of her sons were brought in under life sentence, a third son to serve seven years, and Charles Wilson, her second husband, to serve 25 years.

Family All in Prison.

One of the sons serving a life sentence died four years ago. The third son served out his sentence and it is reported that he is now serving a term in the Missouri penitentiary.

The Staffebachs liver near Galena, Kan., and were accused of numerous atrocious murders. They ran a hotel, and it was alleged

that they murdered guests who had money and threw the bodies into a deserted mine. A number of skeletons were found on the premises.

The Stafflebacks are generally ranked next to the Benders in the list of notorious Kansas murderers.

The story of the deathbed meeting in the Kansas penitentiary of mother, son and husband, all convicts, adds to the merit of Dr. Owens-Adair's sterilization law, with the proviso that the law should know no sex.—Oregonian.

STERILIZATION OF CRIMINALS.

At a joint meeting of the Physicians' Club and the Law Club, held in the Great Northern Hotel, the information was made public that Indiana has a state law through which all criminals in the penitentiaries of that state are sterilized.

The subject was introduced by Dr. William T. Belfield of Rush Medical College in an address upon the subject, "Race Suicide for Social Parasites." He said:

"Only one commonwealth in the world, the state of Indiana, has educated its people to the belief that the only way to prevent crime is to prevent the birth of the criminal. The criminal is to society what the tumor is to the human body. Worse than that, he is an hereditary contagion, and Indiana, by legislative enactment, has revolutionized the methods of his treatment."

Dr. H. J. Hurty, secretary of the Indiana State Board of Health, then spoke on "The Indiana Movement."

"Many of our criminals," said he, "asked to be sterilized, and after being released from confinement have proved good citizens."

In one penitentiary seventeen felons have been treated against their will, but 216, knowing that they were under dogs in society's path, have requested sterilization. Under our law the State Board of Health has full power. Each jail is provided with surgeons, who examine prisoners and then advise whether they should be treated."

Municipal Judge John R. Newcomer, speaking from a legal standpoint on the same subject, said:

"Thousands of men go from the upper to the under world each year who, if sterilized, would be good citizens. If I were a member of the Illinois Legislature I would introduce such a bill at the first opportunity."—Chicago Daily Examiner, Dec. 16, 1907.

In his name and his picture, Mike Nichatich gives evidence of being one of those undesirable citizens who drift into this country from foreign lands simply because our lax immigration laws do not stop them at the gate. The record of Nichatich is a bad one, and he has apparently been a criminal charge of the United States for the greater part of the time he has spent in the country. We breed criminals in this country, and will probably continue to do so, until Mrs. Dr. Owens-Adair succeeds in getting her sterilization law on the books. We are also obliged at vast expense to take care of criminals whose breeding had but little to do with the instincts they developed later. Thus, starting with a fairly heavy criminal handicap of our own making, it becomes all the more necessary that we should shut out as many as possible of the foreign element that comes here with the impression that crime is more free from penalty here than it is in the land that was better for their leaving it.

WARRENTON, OR., Oct. 28.—(To the Editor.)—I am gratified to see the plain and sensible manner in which The Oregonian discusses the case of Mike Nichatich, the man who escaped recently from the Oregon penitentiary.

When The Oregonian says, "We breed criminals in this country, and will probably continue to do so until Mrs. Dr. Owens-Adair succeeds in getting her sterilization law on the books," it speaks to the point most emphatically. I am thankful—yes, far more than I can express—for the support given me through the columns of The Oregonian, knowing well that thousands upon thousands turn daily to its columns for guidance. It is the newspapers and periodicals that educate the masses, and through which our government is controlled. Yes, it is lamentable that our immigration laws are so lax, allowing so many worthless persons to prey upon us, bringing only discord and dissension. But when my bill becomes a law, which it will, all such parasites as Mike Nichatich will find homes outside of Oregon.

Perhaps ex-Governor Chamberlain may never know the great wrong he did when he vetoed my bill, thereby continuing protection to criminal classes. Oregon honored him by placing the great power of the veto in his hands, and he used that power against the votes of 20 Senators and 55 Representatives, who had thought, discussed and reasoned upon the great question among and with themselves—and every man voted his conviction. Nothing is truer than this—that thought gives birth to the act. Thought is the great character-builder, both of the individual and the nation, either for good or for bad. The trend of thought today is in the right direction, and it behooves us to cultivate the good and crush the evil.

Last winter one of the inmates of the Oregon penitentiary said that he would shoot me as soon as he completed his last two years' detention there, and that 50 others had made a like pledge. That threat has never caused me the loss of any sleep, neither am I expecting a bullet. But should a stray bullet find me I shall have the extreme satisfaction of knowing that the law will be enforced, and that I have not lived my life in vain. Next year I expect to see my bill a law, both in Oregon and Washington. I know that the women all over these two great states, as well as the pure-minded men, are in favor of the measure.

DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

A Case of Heredity.

A correspondent of the New York World describes a state of affairs which would seem incredible, only that the correspondent gives names and post-office address of the people about whom he writes. It appears that at Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard, there is a colony composed largely of deaf mutes, all natives of the place. There are 146 souls in the Chilmark settlement, and of these 36 1-4 are deaf and dumb, all born so. The affliction seems rather to be increasing than diminishing. In five families in the settlement named there are 28 children, and of these 15 are deaf mutes.

If we call on heredity to account for the strange phenomenon, then hereditary has indulged in nothing less than a freak. The intermarriages have not been numerous among relatives nearer than third or fourth cousins. But the deaf mutes have married indiscriminately at their own will, married as often as they wished or could, and taken either deaf mute partners or those who could hear and speak if the latter would have them. The consequence is that the taint of deaf mute blood is diffused through the whole population, and the affliction may crop out at any time even among the children of those who hear and speak perfectly. Since the first settlement of the island the inhabitants have kept closely to themselves, not often intermarrying with outsiders.

Chilmark is therefore a settlement of pure blooded Martha's Vineyarders. A peculiarity of the Chilmark deaf mutes is that they are apt to be splendid physical specimens otherwise—tall, strong and rosy, living to a great age in perfect health. Finally the descent of all these deaf mutes of Chilmark can be traced directly back for 250 years to two deaf mutes who were among the first settlers of Martha's Vineyard.

It is with my full indorsement that I present this very excellent editorial on Prof. Andrew's Address, I have never and do not advocate distruction of life, but, I do advocate the prevention of disease

deformity and crime, I am advocating a benign remedy which can and will when applied, restore many, many a helpless victim to health usefulness and happiness.

DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

PROFESSOR ANDREWS AGAIN.

Professor E. Benjamin Andrews, whose peculiar views upon public matters have been buried for a few years past under the duties of chancellor in the University of Nebraska, has broken out again with a radical opinion. In a recent address before the students of that university we find these words:

Society, as it becomes more enlightened, will snuff out the lives of sickly and deformed infants, to prevent their becoming at maturity a burden to it and to themselves. As with the cradle, so it will be with other cases. A committee of skilled physicians, I firmly believe, eventually will determine the fate of those who are sickly, or whose recovery from disease is impossible. Such persons, if the physicians agree, will mercifully be put to death.

This theory is not new. Physicians have advanced it more than once, before medical societies, and it is impossible to tell how often some of the more courageous and humane in the ranks of the medical profession have reduced it to practice. Yet as a theory it does not need public approval, and, indeed, it can scarcely be said to be growing in favor. It may be conceded that it would be better for the world and better for the individual against whom the decree of idiocy of hopeless disease or of hideous bodily deformity has been passed by Nature, if all thus afflicted or deformed could die; but the belief is general that no human agency can be trusted or should be trusted to carry out in silence and secrecy the death sentence upon those thus unfortunate. The instinctive protest that arises against the proposal, as set out in plain words by Professor Andrews is based upon a knowledge of human fallibility from which not even the skilled physician or the man of science is exempt.

It is well in this connection to remember that some of the world's greatest men and its most useful women were frail and feeble infants—"sickly," as Dr. Andrews has it. The late Herbert Spencer was a puny, weak child, and during all of his long life he was compelled to be very careful of his health. The same may be said of Ruskin and of Mrs. Browning, and coming across the water, of Horace Greely and Whittier. The deprivation to this world would have been great, indeed, had a committee of skilled physicians passed the death sentence upon any one of these in infancy.

While demurring to the theory of Dr. Andrews so far as it pertains to sickly children or to persons whose recovery from disease is regarded as impossible, it is easy to indorse his view as applied to physical monstrosities or congenital idiots. In the case of such persons it is manifest that no mistake could be made in passing a sentence of painless death upon them, and no doubt in time humanity will come to the aid of social science and political economy in ordering that such as these be mercifully released from the bondage of existence that is not life. The lives of such unfortunates are an expression of effect—not of cause. When, to use the words of Dr. Andrews, "society becomes more enlightened" we may well believe that the cause will be dealt with and the effect thus eradicated.

CRIME CHECK PLANNED.

STOP UNION OF WEAK TO LESSEN SIN, SAYS SPEAKER.

Chicago Lecturer Declares It Better to Prevent Births Than to Hang or Sustain Hospitals.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—(Special)—Speaking on "Marriage and Divorce in the Light of Rationalism" before the Independent Religious Society in Orchestra Hall today, M. M. Mangasarian declared that it was better to prevent the birth of criminals than to hang them, and that the prevention of disease through the prohibition of marriage of the diseased and mentally deformed was more humane and economical than the building of hospitals.

"It is by regulating marriage that the extinction of the unworthy and the multiplication of the superior are to be effected. A better race can only be bred by sexual selection for parenthood.

"It is better to prevent the birth of criminals than to get rid of them by means of the gallows. The prevention of disease and insanity by throwing obstacles in the way of marriage of consumptives and the mentally deformed is more humane as well as more economical than the building of hospitals and asylums for the insane.

"It is also poor policy to care for defective children and later send them out into the world to become parents, while the healthy ones are compelled to slave in factories at a tender age."

I indorse the above, I do not think there can be too many safeguards thrown around the unborn child.

For to be well born, is its God given right, but unfortunately for the helpless child, propagation does not depend upon marriage. I am advocating the cut-off road, it gets there quickly and does the work effectually for both sexes. The process is simple, benign and the only rational solution of the sex question and is now being so advocated by the great thinking minds today as the various quotations herein will show.

To show the progress along these lines I will give the following clipping which is self explanatory.

DR. OWENS-ADAIR.

A NEW WORD.

PORTLAND, February 15, 1884.

To the Editor of the Oregonian:

I see by your paper of yesterday and this morning that Mrs. Dr. B. A. Owens will lecture in the W. C. T. U. hall to-night on "Heredity." I must say I do not know what this word means, and think there are a great many in like ignorance; and knowing The Oregonian is supposed to know everything, we ask—for we are many—from whence springs this word, and where is it to be found? Is it something new? Is it English or not?

INQUIRER.

The word has no place in old or middle English, but is much used by modern writers on physiology and kindred sciences. It was unknown by lexicographers till recently, but may be found in the supplement to the last edition of Webster, where it is defined thus: "Heredity—The transmission of the physical and psychical qualities of parents to their offspring; the biological law by which living beings tend to repeat themselves in their descendants."

A PERTINENT EXAMPLE.

The man John Branton, who failing to effect his escape from the penitentiary at Salem recently, took his own life in a most savage manner, was a degenerate of the most hopeless and dangerous type. A man whose tendencies were toward lawlessness, avarice and savagery, he was serving a term of ten years, nearly half of which had expired, for assault with intent to kill. Of his three wives two died under suspicious circumstances, their lives having been insured for a few hundred dollars in his favor. His brother, Claude Branton, was hanged at Eugene, a few years ago, the murder of which he was convicted having been committed under exceptionally brutal

circumstances. These two men, known in earlier life as "Branton boys," cost the tax-payers of Lane county dearly in court expenses, the state at least one worthy citizen and the community some scandal and great unrest. This is the debit side of their life record; the credit side is practically without entry.

It were easy to preach a sermon with these lives as the text, but it is useless, since in a general way the relation of cause to effect in such cases is well understood—understood, but for all practical or remedial purposes ignored. Criminologists of the state of New York some years ago traced the descendants of a reckless and abandoned young woman through three generations, and found that among these descendants were or had been many of the most desperate criminals of the long period covered, including a number of murderers, robbers, burglars and a small army of criminals of the lower class—men and women, who were at war all long the line with the decencies and wholesome conventions of society. The effort was undertaken for the purpose of showing that it is easier and vastly wiser and cheaper to deal with the question of the multiplication of criminals by preventive than by remedial measures. The first process can be made absolute which the last is at best but a series of costly experiments.

The subject is one from the contemplation of which society naturally shrinks, but with the consequences of which it is constantly brought face to face in the courts, through the newspapers, in the jails and penitentiaries, in the insane asylums and not infrequently at the gallows. Yet as long as it is shunned, we must continue to imprison, if we do not hang, our Traceys and Brantons and the increasing horde of criminals of whatever name who are in revolt against the social order under which human life is held sacred and property safe.—Oregonian.

The bill of Dr. Owens-Adair before the recent legislature was intended to deal with the class of criminals referred to above and, for the protection of society and humanity in general, it is to be regretted that the measure failed to receive the governor's signature.

RAYMOND Wash., Jan. 2, 1909.

Dr. Owens-Adair:

I am no doctor, scientist or even very well learned, I am just a plain woman, but I have read every word of yours that the Oregonian has published, also everything that has been published against your theory, I have always contended that your plan is the only one that will put a stop to criminal assault on women and children, but until I read what you suggested in regard to other criminals I had never thought of it, but now I do not see why it

never has been thought of before this. My opinion I know has very little weight, but I think you are right and I hope to see it become a law, I would go still further and apply the rule to habitual drunkards, but that would raise a howl. I hope you will not be discouraged, but keep it before the people until you win out.

Yours for good laws.

MRS. BELL, TRICKEY.

205 Misner Street Portland, Jan., 11, 1909.

Dr. Owens-Adair:

My Friend:—I thank you sincerely for your kind favor of the 5th instant, the proposed legislation was doubtless not published in full in the Oregonian, if I can be of any use in any way in this matter command me. I wonder if I shall ever live to see the dawn of the blessed day, when I and all women may walk abroad in safety. There are, so many tramps in California, that after being dreadfully frightened once, I dared no more to walk to my neighbors about two blocks away through orange groves unless accompanied by my husband who at an appointed hour came to walk home with me. Is it not a hideous condition of affairs in a land of boasted freedom! Rape is the American crime, a distinctive American crime. We had lost children in our country, but I never heard of rape, never. I was in the United States only a few months when, I heard of the raping and murder of a young woman, a country woman of my own, and I have lived in fear, hideous fear ever since. If I had two or three copies of your bill, typewritten I could use them, I could have copies type written myself but it will occasion delay as we are five miles from heart of business part of Portland.

Yours very sincerely,

MRS. A. J. CLEVELAND.

INDEPENDENCE, Kas, February 14, 1907.

Dr. Owens Adair, M. D., Astoria, Ore.

Dear Madam:—The undersigned is a reader of the Daily Oregonian, and has read with interest of a bill said to have been prepared by you.

She has great sympathy for criminals, believing as she does in pre-natal education of children. She does not understand how human beings are to be sterilized, and addresses this letter to you for information.

Sec. 1 reads: "That all feeble-minded, epileptic, and insane persons committed to any State institution shall be sterilized, etc." Will this treatment cure epilepsy, or restore to normal action, the brain of the insane?

Very truly yours,

RACHEL A. TENNEY.

VANCOUVER, Wash., February 5, 1907.

Dr. Owens-Adair:

Dear Friend:—Allow me the honor to respond to your article which appeared in the Sunday Oregonian of January 27, 1907, in reference to the sterilization of certain useless and vicious persons.

There are several things which may seem strange to you about my letter. (1) Its being penciled; (2) my boldness in addressing you as a friend—I being a stranger; (3) that I, a Christian minister, should agree with you. But believe me, dear fellow, I not only agree but even (though I do not literally see you) I'll go you one or two better.

I assure you, dear co-worker, that as an ordained minister I am somewhat handicapped by the prejudice among my fellows, both feminine and masculine, yet I have on every proper occasion recommended the attempted legislation in Ohio and Iowa, and Wisconsin for the reduction of parasites. I believe not only in sterilizing of both men and women, boys and girls, who are either weaklings, physical or mental, the blind, the cripples, (hereditary) the hideously deformed, the epileptic, and the insane, but also the immediate progeny of insane.

Furthermore, I have advocated, and do yet recommend, the wholesale electrocution of the incurables of either or all of these classes, when life to them is a mere unconscious, or semi-conscious existence.

As to the vicious, libertines of either sex, my doctrine is, sterilize them as well as restrain them. In this I am sure I observe the golden rule. Whenever I fall into either of the misfortunes above set forth, do unto me as I have prescribed for that class. Am sure this would rid the future generations of much sin and misery, reduce taxes, increase the sum of human happiness, and hasten the millennium for which we preachers are earnestly praying.

With heartiest good wishes for your success in the promotion of untold blessings, believe me.

Your humble friend and fellow servant,

REV. ST. D. MARTINE.

P. S. I have very ample evidence right here in this town, of the influence and danger of these abnormities.

(Pardon pencil; type-writer frozen.)

PORTLAND, Ore., January 1, 1909.

Dr. Owens-Adair, Warrenton, Oregon.

Dear Madam:—I have been much interested in your movement for the passing of a law for sterilizing all our criminal and insane wards of the state, I consider your position both sane and humane. Four years as chaplain of the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, Ill., gave me an insight into the conditions that prevail among criminals both in and out of prison walls that confirmed me years ago of the righteousness of your contention. The conduct of criminals within the prison were of such a horrible nature that it would be a burning shame to place them upon white paper. But if anyone is curious to know what I am hinting at let them read Paul's first chapter to Roman's.

What a boon your bill would be to the prison management. While as an additional argument I would suggest the deterrent influence such a law will have upon criminals of all classes. The fear of this law would make a stronger appeal to the criminal than any sentence that any court might inflict upon him. Even a sentence of death would be preferable to a man a criminal than to be unsexed. If there is anything I can do to further your campaign command.

Yours very sincerely,

J. J. WALTER, P. H. B.

Judge Foster and a host of other prominent writers have made it most emphatic that sterilization is the only cure for criminality and other forms of hereditary afflictions, but nowhere have I found that sterilization has been advocated for women and yet it is just as essential and I have always so asserted. Here is a case in point when in Olympia last February I said to one of Washington's supreme judges. Do you understand what sterilization is? "I think I do in a way," would you like to have me explain it to you. "I said 'Yes I would'" I did, then he said bringing his fist down upon his

desk, "that ought to be a law in every state in this union, when I was on the superior bench I committed one woman 5 times to the asylum, with every pregnancy and I went to her husband and begged him to let her alone, but I suppose that thing will go on on till this state will have 12 or 15 insane subjects to care for." There is a whole volume in what this wise judge said. His words were convincing and to the point and this is only one of many thousands of similar cases that go to the mad house yearly. In pity for all such unfortunate women I ask why, should this be allowed when sterilization would not only shield and protect them but the public as well, I opine that the day is not far distant when every such unfortunate mother will have learned of this blessed remedy and will demand its application for her protection. Sterilization for women is simply to exclude the Falopian tubes, preventing the ova from reaching the uterus, thus preventing conception. The process for sterilizing men will be found in Judge Foster's most excellent article which follows:

No man in America knows criminals better than Judge Foster or has given more thought to a proper method for the reduction of criminality. The judge, because of his great interest in criminal jurisdiction, has even declined a place on the New York Supreme Court bench. It is probable that no other man has refused such a place.

The judge gives here the results of his years of study and suggests a practical and certain cure for hereditary criminality. This story offers the means for a great reduction in the number of American criminals. It is the most important contribution that has been made on one of the great social questions of the day.—Editor.

"The best way to train a child is to begin with his grandfather," is a remark attributed to that genial philosopher, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, and its wisdom is apparent to all students of the history of crime and criminals.

The level of criminality is rising and has been rising during the whole of the present century throughout the civilized world. In France it has risen several hundred per cent.; so also, for several kinds of serious crime, in many parts of Germany, while in Spain the number of persons sent to perpetual imprisonment nearly doubled between 1870 and 1883. In the United States the criminal population has increased within thirty years, relatively to the population, by one-third.

1. The criminal and vice classes are the product of certain influences of heredity, congenital and acquired disease, and unfavorable surroundings involving pernicious teaching and example, physical necessities, and other social maladies.

2. These influences result in a class of persons of a low grade of development, physically and mentally; with a defective understanding of their true relations to the social system in which they live. Such persons have no true conception of that variable thing called morality, and, in the case of the criminal, no respect whatever for the rights of others, save in so far as it may be compelled by fear of punishment. Some become criminals, some paupers, and still others prostitutes, inebriates, or insane.

Criminality is much like insanity. Among primitive races, like insanity, it is rare. But this rising flood of criminality should not beget pessimism, rather should it spur us on to the great task of social betterment, as a pro-found thinker has observed. Education alone will not rid us of criminals, for there are already, as we know, many educated criminals. Punishment alone as a specific for crime is a failure. Both education and punishment are but factors in the reformation of the criminal.

Heredity in Crime.

To a large extent the child is molded before he is born. There is no invariable fatalism in the influences that work before birth, but it does make a great difference whether a man is well-born and starts happily, or whether he is heavily handicapped at the outset of the race of life.

The begetting of children is the highest of all human functions and carries consequences that beggar description. It is well, therefore, to remember that every falling away from health, every new strain or break in man or woman may lay an additional burden on a man or woman yet unborn, perhaps wreck a life or a succession of lives.

Morrison reports that among the inmates of English Industrial Schools 51 per cent are either illegitimates or have one or both parents dead, or are the offspring of criminals and parents who have abandoned them; and he concludes, concerning the parents, that "at the very least 80 per cent., of them in every hundred are addicted to serious, if not criminal habits."

Aubry has given the history and genealogical tree of a very remarkable Brittany family of criminals through five generations. The history begins in the last century with Aime Gabriel Kerangal and his wife. The outcome, through five generations, has been a family of paupers, of criminals, of friends of criminals, and of prostitutes, though none were insane. Suicide, incest and all sorts of reckless licentiousness have flourished in this family. Crime of blood are

laid to the charge of seven persons in the genealogical tree, other offenses to nine persons.

By far the most exhaustive and careful study of the effect of heredity in the transmission of crime, however, has been "The Jukes: A Study in Crime, Pauperism, Disease and Heredity," by R. L. Dugdale (Putnam's), 1877. The ancestral breeding-place of this family was in a rocky, inaccessible spot on the then frontier of New York, where they lived in cabins—sleeping indiscriminately around the hearth in winter with their feet to the fire. The ancestor of this family was born of the early Dutch settlers between 1720 and 1740—a hunter and fisher, a hard drinker, jolly and companionable, averse to steady toil and working only by fits and starts. He lived to an old age, when he became blind, and dying left an enormous, more or less illegitimate, progeny.

Two of his sons married two, out of five, more or less, illegitimate sisters. These sisters were the "Jukes". The descendants of these five sisters have been carefully traced through five subsequent generations, the number of individuals thus traced being 709. The real aggregate of this progeny is probably 1,200. This family, while it has included a certain portion of honest workers, has been, on the whole, a family of criminals and prostitutes, of vagabonds and paupers. Not 20 of the men were skilled workers, and of these 10 learned their trade in prison, while 180 received outdoor relief to the extent of an aggregate of 800 years. Of the 709 there were 76 criminals. Of the females more than half were prostitutes (52.40 per cent., the normal average has been estimated at 1.66 per cent.), and the learned author estimates that, during this period, the "Jukes" family cost the State a million and a quarter of dollars, without taking into consideration the awful legacy of crime and criminals which they also left behind them. Nothing so instructive in criminal heredity has been published as the history of "The Jukes."

The question of heredity has been further reduced to cold statistics by Professor Poellmann, of the University of Bonn, in his investigation of the descendants of a confirmed female drunkard who died early in the nineteenth century. The fifth or sixth generations of her posterity numbered 834 persons. Of these, the records of 709 have been ascertained, and, of them, 107 were of illegitimate birth, 162 were professional beggars, 64 were inmates of almshouses, 181 were prostitutes, 76 were convicted of serious crimes, and 7 were condemned for murder. The total cost to the State of caring for this woman's pauper offspring and punishing her criminal progeny, together with the amount privately given in alms and loss through theft, was reckoned at \$1,206,000 or more than \$12,000 a year. This expense has continued and increased, in almost geometrical progression, even unto this day, for the fecundity of the irresponsible is notorious, perhaps because of their irresponsibility. To them

children appear to be rather an asset than a liability, if, indeed, they ever give the subject thought.

A further proof of the potency of heredity is shown by the investigations of the Rev. Dr. Stocker, of Berlin. He traced 834 descendants of two sister who died in 1825, and found among them 76 who had served 116 years in prison, 164 prostitutes, 106 illegitimate children, 17 pimps, 142 beggars and 64 paupers.

Statistics appear to show that Great Britain is, as compared with the other countries of Europe and the rest of the world as well, relatively free from crime, and this comparative freedom has been explained by foreign experts as due to the former frequency of hangings and to the ruthless transportation out of Europe of all convicted of heinous offenses, thus eliminating very largely the criminal classes, and putting a stop to the further breeding of criminals by convicts on home soil. It will be remembered that in the eighteenth century, under the English law, there were over one hundred and fifty different offenses, for which the penalty of death was ordained by statute. Students of criminalology, investigating further, have discovered that in New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia, the penal colonies to which Great Britain transferred her criminals, there is more criminality than in the other ("free") Australian colonies. These sober facts of history thus seem to show that the hereditary criminality which would have increased the crime of to-day in Great Britain, already greatly reduced by the wholesale hanging of felons, has been largely transferred to her penal colonies.

By way of contrast, a similar research has been made into the history of the famous Edwards family of New England. This family, descended from strong religious ancestors, embraced many of the distinguished characters of our national history, and all of them were upright and useful citizens. The comparison of these two families, the "Jukes" and the Edwards, to be found in Boies' "Science of Penology," forms a most striking instance of the strength of heredity in perpetuating ancestral traits, both virtuous and criminal.

Various Criminality.

Assuming it then as proved, first, that the aim of all criminal law and procedure is public protection against crime, and, second, that criminal tendencies as well as virtuous tendencies are transmitted by inheritance, does there not follow, as the night the day, the logical conclusion that criminals ought not to be allowed to propagate their species?

By "criminal" is meant, of course, that class best described as "instinctive criminals" who have an instinctive propensity to crime,

and to whom many authorities refer as "born" or "congenital criminals" and who are possessed of an ingrained malignity of disposition. It does not mean the occasional criminal, the every-day type of criminal, of whom weakness or inability to resist temptation is a chief characteristic; nor does it include the so-called "political criminal" whom Lambroso euphemistically, but interestingly, defined as "the true precursor of the progressive movement of humanity;" nor is it intended by the term "criminal" to include "criminals by passion," who, stung to sudden madness, transgress the law as a solitary event of their life, never, as Havelock Ellis says, becoming "recidivists," and who so far from doing wrong are doing right and seeking justice as they see it; nor does it include the so-called "insane criminal", who by reason of defect of understanding has no depravity of mind and is, therefore, no more a criminal than an animal doing a harmless act.

In an eloquent presidential address on "The coming field of the medical profession in the scientific treatment of crime and criminals," that distinguished criminologist and alienist, Dr. Austin Flint, said to the New York State Medical Association that in the future the wise and beneficent solution of the problem of crime and criminals must rest with the physician, and therein be predicted, and even recommended, the sterilization of criminals.

THE SOLUTION

Four methods have been commonly suggested: Emasculation, a rigid regulation of marriage which shall prohibit the criminal from mating, segregation or colonization of the criminal, and lastly vasectomy. The first method works such an entire psychical and physical change in the individual that its contemplation naturally shocks the mind, and public opinion, in all probability, will never approve its legal adoption. Of the second method, it may be said that unfortunately marriage is not necessary to propagation. It may be possible, by legislation, to diminish marriage, but doubtless the effect would be to increase the number of illegitimates, thus augmenting instead of diminishing the "mischief." The segregation or "colonization" of the criminal, thus making impossible the commingling of the sexes, is approved chiefly by those who have apparently never known of vasectomy. As a matter of fact, it has been tried by the law for a time to which the memory of man runneth not to the contrary—for what else is it than imprisonment within four walls, and has this not already proved its inefficiency?

Coming then to vasectomy, a subject in which an increasing number of State legislatures is becoming interested, the physician furnishes a method of sterilizing the criminal with no impairment of the

sexual function, merely the blocking of the minute canal (the vas) traversed by the fecundating element of the male, thus wholly preventing impregnation. As proof of their contention that this simple process impairs neither sexual virility nor its instinctive manifestation and accomplishment, the medical profession points to the robust sexual health of thousands of men who have been unwittingly sterilized through disease, and who never suspected that their procreative functions were not perfectly normal until their marriages prove barren. They also point to the experience of those upon whom vasectomy has been performed, among them married men who chose this means, rather than criminal abortion, to prevent the transmission to offspring of their hereditary taints, such as insanity and infectious disease.

Vasectomy is known to the medical profession as "an office operation" painlessly performed in a few minutes, under a local anaesthesia (cocaine), through a skin cut half an inch long, and entailing no wound infection, no confinement to bed. "It is less serious than the extraction of a tooth," to quote from Dr. William D. Belfield, of Chicago, one of the pioneers in the movement for the sterilization of criminals by vasectomy, an opinion that finds ample corroboration among practitioners.

Nor is this method entirely academic. It has been tried. It is in actual operation in at least one State. In March, 1907, the Indiana Legislature passed a bill thus authorizing sterilization, which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Heredity plays a most important part in the transmission of crime, idiocy and imbecility;

THEREFORE, Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That on and after the passage of this act it shall be compulsory for each and every institution in the State, entrusted with the care of confirmed criminals, idiots, rapists, and imbeciles, to appoint upon its staff, in addition to the regular institutional physician, two (2) skilled surgeons of recognized ability, whose duty it shall be, in conjunction with the chief physician of the Institution to examine the mental and physical condition of such inmates as are recommended by the institutional physician and board of managers. If, in the judgment of this committee of experts and the board of managers, procreation is inadvisable, and there is no probability of improvement of the mental and physical condition of the inmate, it shall be lawful for the surgeons to perform such operation for the prevention of procreation as shall be decided safest and most effective. But this operation shall not be performed except in cases that have been pronounced unimprovable: Provided, That in no case shall the consultation fee be more than three (3) dollars to each expert, to be paid out of the funds appropriated for the maintenance of such institution.

Upward of 800 persons in the State of Indiana have thus been asexualized, and, according to competent medical testimony, with entire success.

Hereditary Criminality and Its Certain Cure.

Bills substantially similar have passed the legislatures of Oregon and Connecticut, and have been introduced in Illinois, but, for one cause or another, have not become laws. Upon the law proposed for Connecticut, one of the New York journals makes this pointed comment: "Could such a law be enforced in the whole United States, less than four generations would eliminate nine-tenths of the crime, insanity and sickness of the present generation in our land. Asylums, prisons and hospitals would decrease, and the problems of the unemployed, the indigent old, and the hopelessly degenerate would cease to trouble civilization. In the breeding of horses and cattle, the survival of the fittest, only, is made possible; and the human race should be protected in the same manner from the perpetuation of undesirable and dangerous tendencies and qualities. It is to be hoped that this law will pass, and be enforced in Connecticut; and that it will become universal."

There appears to be a wonderful unanimity of favoring opinion as to the advisability of the sterilization of criminals and the prevention of their further propagation. The Journal of the American Medical Association recommends it, as does the Chicago Physicians' Club, the Southern District Medical Society, and the Chicago Society of Social Hygiene. The Chicago Evening Post, speaking of the Indiana law, says that it is one of the most important reforms before the people, that "rarely has a big thing come with so little fanfare of trumpets." The Chicago Tribune says that "the sterilization of defectives and habitual criminals is a measure of social economy."

The sterilization of convicts by vasectomy was actually performed for the first time in this country, so far as is known, in October, 1899, by Dr. H. C. Sharp, of Indianapolis, then physician to the Indiana State Reformatory at Jeffersonville, though the value of the operation for healing purposes had long been known. He continued to perform this operation with the consent of the convict (not by legislative authority) for some years. Influential physicians heard of his work, and were so favorably impressed with it that they endorsed the movement, which resulted in the passage of the law now upon the Indiana statute books. Dr. Sharp has this to say of this method of relief to society: "Vasectomy consists of ligating and resecting a small portion of the vasa deferentia. This operation is indeed very simple and easy to perform, I do it without administering an anaesthetic, either general or local. It requires about three

minutes' time to perform the operation and the subject returns to his work immediately, suffers no inconvenience, and is in no way impaired for his pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness, but is effectively sterilized. I have been doing this operation for nine full years. I have two hundred and thirty-six cases that have afforded splendid opportunity for post-operative observation and I have never seen any unfavorable symptom. There is no atrophy of the parts, no cystic degeneration, no disturbed mental or nervous condition following, but, on the contrary, the patient becomes of a more sunny disposition, brighter of intellect, and advises his fellows to submit to the operation for their own good. And here is where this method of preventing procreation is so infinitely superior to all others proposed—that it is endorsed by the subjected persons. All the other methods proposed place restrictions and, therefore, punishment upon the subject; this method absolutely does not. There is no expense to the State, no sorrow or shame to the friends of the individual, as there is bound to be in the carrying out of the segregation idea."

Dr. Rentoul, of Liverpool, has given much thought to this subject, and, more than others, has contributed to literature on this question, and he advocates the authorization of sterilization by law.

Sir John McDougall, Chairman of the Asylum Committee of the London County Council, has said: "Some day we shall come to the conclusion that some physical means should be employed to prevent the unfit from producing children."

Earl Russell, of London, is quoted as saying: "I think it admits of little doubt that if the ruling classes in the country, in Parliament, and in the law were composed entirely of people of adequate medical knowledge, some such remedy as this suggested would soon become a law of the land."

Dr. Bernardo, whose work on behalf of the children of the submerged tenth in London has given him world-wide fame, left on record these words: "Some step will have to be taken in the near future if we are to protect the nation at large from a large addition of the most enfeebled, vicious, and degenerate type."

Dr. Bevan Lewis, of England, says: "Nothing short of such radical means can stem the tide of degeneracy."

Dr. Barr, in his work "Mental Defectives," says: "Let asexualization be once legalized, not as a penalty for crime, but as a remedial measure preventing crime and tending to future comfort and happiness of the defective; let the practice once become common for young children immediately upon being adjudged defective by competent authority properly appointed, and the public mind will accept it as an effective means of race preservation. It would come to be regarded, just as quarantine, simple protection against ill."

As soon as my bill passed the house I left for Portland and took the night train for Olympia, on arrival went at once to the State house, at the close of the session I introduced myself to Senator Allen, to whom I had sent my bill, three weeks before by recommendation of Senator Beach and had asked him to introduce it for me. I found that instead of introducing it he had, handed it to the committee on Criminal Laws. Said, the committee had found it so much better than any they had, that they had incorporated it in the criminal code. He handed me a copy of the code, and at once introduced me to the chairman and other members of the committee who invited me at once, to come before them, which I did the next day, I found by the code, that the power had been vested in the judge, at the time of commitment, this though a step in the right direction, in reality amounted to but little, as the judge might or might not use the power at his disposal, and it would not reach that great army already incorporated. The committee knew this and were anxious to assist me, but said they could not incorporate any more in the code. The committee thought the bill should come up as a separate measure, and the criminal code would give it strength. The next morning I went to the house before the session opened. The speaker received me with great kindness and at once presented me with a card, saying, this entitles you to the freedom of the house. Later I received like courtesies from the Senate. I fully appreciated these honors, knowing that few women receive so much, I circulated my bill in both the senate and house. A member of the House came to me and said "I have that in my bill for the insane," I am really glad if you have, but please let me see your bill, I found that he had taken it from the criminal code, nothing more. I said, "you surely must see that as your bill now stands it will not meet the requirements," "Yes, I do and I am willing to fix it up just as you say if it can be done, come and I will introduce you to the chairman of the committee and I will go to the Attorney General and see what can be done."

I said, "I want it distinctly understood that I have not come here to encroach upon any members rights, all I ask is that this bill shall become a law in this state. The passage of my bill in Oregon is enough honor for me." When we met in committee, the author of the insane bill said he could not get any assistance from the Attorney General as he was simply deluged with work, and besides any addition to this bill might retard its passage. After I had addressed the committee, it was decided that the bill should be introduced at once, with the hope of getting it through. One enthusiastic member suggested that I must go before the judiciary committee and explain the subject, as information was what they wanted, and he volunteered to arrange for the meeting, which he did and I said in part:

FOR THE COMMITTEE ON STERILIZATION.

This bill which has passed the Oregon Legislature is far reaching and is an issue of many sides and for fear that I may get off on a side issue and bore you I have jotted down a few essential arguments in favor of its adoption.

You will observe in the Criminal Code which is before the legislature for adoption; the power is invested in the judge only, and will not, when it becomes a law, reach the great army of unfortunates that are now in the various state institutions, and further, it is greatly desired, and is necessary, that the inmates themselves should understand that this is a humane remedy and not a punishment.

Therefore the power of recommendation for sterilization should be placed in the hands of the various boards of management, who are made up of intelligent men and women, who have the constant care and confidence of the inmates themselves, and who understand their needs.

And I tell you, my friends, it matters not where you go you can find that potent power of love, in some form, in all human and animal life; and if you can but touch that mainspring under favorable conditions you can assert your influence for good. Therefore, I say, give the recommending power to the board of management, who will call upon the physicians to diagnose and administer the remedy according to their best judgment.

This law has been tried in Indiana for two years and the results for good have been far greater than had even been hoped for. Out of 232 cases by Dr. Sharp alone all but six asked for the treatment.

The Oregonian said; that the committee had ruined my bill by cutting out all the essential parts, which meant: The criminal insane, rapists, and convicts serving their second term. Now gentlemen, I asked the committee to substitute the Indiana bill for the one which had been introduced; for I knew the pulse of the Oregon Legislature and I knew that that bill could not pass, but I would have you know that this bill is far reaching; it will restore that great class known as mastabators, it will send out perhaps twenty per cent of the feeble minded. It will greatly benefit the vicious and incurables, it will be administered as a balm of gilead to thousands of helpless victims, by cutting off the source of their destruction. And in time it will purify the great turbulent river of life; by cutting off the vicious and contaminating sewers of sin, disease and ignorance, and letting in the purifying light of knowledge. In conclusion I wish to emphasize that sterilization is not castration.

The man or the woman who has been sterilized has lost nothing except the power of procreation and to all such their loss will be their everlasting gain. It is the unreasonable loss of that life giving substance that brings disease, wretchedness and destruction. It is the presence of that richest of all, human products that gives health strength and vigor to the body, beauty and lustre to the eye, and tunes the voice to soft and gentle notes. We love the virgin, we honor and adore the pure mother, and the pure father.

Sterilization is of recent scientific discovery which will revolutionize society, and in time I hope it will solve the great question of race suicide and other social evils through its purifying effects.

Monday was the last day for the introduction of new bills, Dr. Christinson introduced the Indiana Bill. The docket was over crowded and for want of time it met the fate of many others. I received a telegram on Monday calling me home, I left at 10 p. m. for home, having been absent nearly two months.

Many have said to me, "Dr. how did you ever come to take up this sterilization work." I have always answered, "I have been working along these lines for many, many years." In proof of this I will copy from my book page 453 which appeared in the Oregonian, and speaks for itself.

ANSWER TO CRITICISM.

PORTLAND, April 21, 1885.

To the Editor:—I beg space to reply to "Saloon Defender" in yours of the 20th who would make sport of our worthy nominee E. C. Bronaugh who comes boldly forward and declares that he is an enemy of whiskey, which is the acknowledged curse of our country. I admit that the whiseytraffic has been required to assist in the building of our penitentiaries, jails and insane asylums; but I assert that it has furnished nine tenths of all the occupants of these lamentable institutions. This is no wild assertion, Every lawyer and every doctor of eminence and ability knows that is true. A bright young lawyer said to me the other day while discussing this subject, "Well I know that nine-tenths of all divorces and troubles in families are caused by whiskey, and I should like to see it go". In conversation with our estimable Governor Thayer last week on prohibition he said, "I think perhaps nine-tenths of all the inmates of the penitentiary, in this state may owe their incarceration to liquor, but don't think you can claim that percentage of our insane." My answer was that the cause was certainly one and the same, but

the trouble is that while the cause is apparent and easily traced in the case of convicted criminals, it is in the majority of cases, obscure and hard to trace in the insane.

Hear what the eminent A. B. Palmer (Dean of the University) has to say on this vital subject, who has been a professor of theory and practice for more than thirty years, he has been honored, and quoted as authority by the great scientists, both in Europe and our own country. He says, "every permanent condition of the organism; every habit of body or mind in the parent, has an influence greater, or less, upon the qualities and tendencies of the offspring. We can make ourselves what we will, only within certain limitations, and our innate propensities, at least however they may be controlled, are received from our ancestors, and are apt to govern us. Morbid qualities of a mild character in the parent may be exaggerated in the offspring. Thus inebriety with its perversions in the parent, may become idiocy or insanity in the child, and moderate drinking in the father creating an appetite which in him is controlled may produce drunkenness in the son or dipsomania in the son or grand son, which may be beyond all control." Add to this the distinguished surgeon of London Henry Thompson, who says. "Few are aware of the great mischief done by the moderate use of fermented liquors."

I ask should parents in their ignorance be allowed to poison the blood of their innocent and helpless offspring? Should men and women be allowed to contract disease and vicious habits, and with them propagate and bring forth mental and physical monstrosities with which to curse our land? Should our government have no will, in these important matters? Must we forever be forced to build institutions with iron bars and grated doors to protect society? No, Sir! we believe the time has come when our people shall be made to realize and understand the importance of these great questions, which involve the life and well-being of our nation."

It has been 25 years since I wrote the above for the press, since then, crime and insanity have, increased with an alarming rapidity. At that time Sterilization was unknown, and to prevent propagation, by the more severe measure, was not to be considered. But now, we have found the remedy and all that we ask is that the Legislatures all over these United States will give us their sanction, and that each state may boast a governor who will consider it an honor to sign the bill which will make it a law. In conclusion I will say that every person who reads this little volume will confer a great favor upon me, if he or she will begin at once, the discussion of the subject matter express their views freely pro and con. Discussion is what we want. I have an abiding faith that no unselfish person, with common understanding and with a spark of humanity in his heart, can read

the statistics and opinions of so many good and wise men and women and not become a convert. This is not an unclean subject. It is Gods' plan for the creation of human life, the highest and noblest of all creations; for did not God himself breath the breath of life into man; that breath is the life everlasting, the spiritual, the immortal part of man, the soul that can never, never die.

