

## Is Crime a Disease?

Mr. C. E. Lees (Cumberland).—Professor Coleman Phillipson's article in "The News" on Saturday under the title "Is Crime a Disease?" attracted my attention.

While not considering all crime to be the product of disease, mental or physical, it seems to me evident that a percentage of crime is attributable to this source, and the natural remedy for that portion of the criminal population is medical science rather than incarceration; but the Professor did not develop this argument.

Starting on "crime and disease," he wandered away to attack determinist theories.

It is rather surprising to find a gentleman of the intellectual attainments of the Professor tilting—although back-handedly—at determinism, and practically championing the exploded "freewill" theory of religionists. Can the Professor point to a mental impulse that emanates from a

source other than those of heredity and environment?

It is evident to any thinking person that he cannot.

Such being the case it is only reasonable to attribute the thoughts and actions of men to the conflicting operations of an ever-changing environment upon the many impulses derived from their heredity.

There are certainly children born into the world with natures prone to crime, caused by ancestral taints, but the matter does not end there. The mind of an individual with a tainted heredity is still receptive of the influences of its environment, and the ultimate results of that individual's life depend upon two factors (from a sociological point of view). Firstly, the strength of his hereditary anti-social instincts; secondly, the nature of the environment in which he finds himself. The more wholesome the environment the greater the chances of his hereditary impulses being kept in subjection.

Unfortunately under the existing order of things the tainted mind is almost certain to become a victim to its anti-social desires, through the lack of a corrective environment and the persistent exaltation—to which we are addicted—of legal robbery, by which our present economic system produces the very environment most calculated to promote crime and immorality in the normal man, not to mention the stivist.

## THE LORD MAYOR-ALTY.

### A QUESTION OF PRECEDENCE.

In the City of London the Lord Mayor takes precedence of every subject of the Crown, including Princes of the Blood Royal, and holds a quasi-sovereign position. The question of the precedence which should be accorded the Lord Mayor of Adelaide at State gatherings has been raised.

In his annual report for 1923, submitted to the City Council on Monday, the Lord Mayor (Mr. Lewis Cohen) referred to the question of precedence to be accorded the Lord Mayor at State gatherings. He said:—

On April 9 I reported to the Council that in connection with a recent official function I felt reluctantly compelled to take exception to the position that had been allotted to the Lord Mayor of this city. By the good offices of the Premier (Sir Henry Barwell) the matter was adjusted satisfactorily on that occasion, but as I realised that it was very desirable that the status of Lord Mayor and the precedence pertaining to his office at official gatherings held within the city should be defined, I directed the town clerk to communicate with the proper authorities in London to ascertain the practice observed on similar occasions in relation to the Lord Mayors, not only of London, but of provincial cities in the old country. The following letter, accordingly, was sent to the Registrar of the College of Arms, London:—"The Mayor of Adelaide was raised to the degree of Lord Mayor by Royal Letters Patent on

22nd November, 1919. While the letters patent set out that the occupant of the office is 'to enjoy and use all and singular rights, privileges, pre-eminence, and advantages to the degree of a Lord Mayor in all things duly and of right belonging, doubt exists as to what such rights, privileges, pre-eminences, and advantages consist in. It is understood that the Lord Mayor is entitled to be styled 'The Right Honorable,' but it is not clear if the person occupying the position is also 'The Right Honorable' while in office, just as a person holding office as a Minister of the Crown in Australia is 'The Honorable' (unless he be a Privy Councillor) until retirement. That is to say, may the present holder of the office be described either as 'The Right Honorable the Lord Mayor, Mr. Lewis Cohen,' or as 'The Lord Mayor, the Right Honorable Lewis Cohen'? In the handbook of the Corporation of the City of London it is noted that the person in office is described as 'The Right Honorable,' but possibly London is an exception, as it is understood that, at the demise of the Sovereign, his Lordship is summoned, and attends and sits among the Lords of the Privy Council, and signs the proclamation of the successor to the throne. The Table of Precedence in England, it is understood, does not provide for the Lord Mayor of London, nor any other Lord Mayor, and without such a guide there is doubt as to the position of the Lord Mayor of Adelaide on State occasions in South Australia. An authority consulted states that the Lord Mayor takes precedence in the City of London of every subject of the Crown, including Princes of the Blood Royal and holds a quasi-sovereign position. What, however, is the position of the Lord Mayor of some other city in the United Kingdom in which a State function may be held? The South Australian Table of Precedence was adopted as long ago as 1900. In this, 'the Mayor of Adelaide' is included, but as the civic head of this city is now a Lord Mayor and a number of others mentioned have become officers of the Commonwealth (constituted 1901), the table is somewhat obsolete. It is contended by the city that the Lord Mayor is entitled to advantages above those previously enjoyed in the lower degree of mayor. Any information that can be furnished on the matter will be much appreciated."

To this the following reply was received from the Registrar (Mr. Arthur Cochrane), Chester Herald:—"With reference to your letter of the 6th December last, I have now gone carefully into this matter. With regard to Lord Mayors other than the Lord Mayor of London, whose case is, as you say, somewhat exceptional, a Lord Mayor is entitled to be styled 'The Right Honorable the Lord Mayor of —,' and not 'The Right Honorable — Lord Mayor of —.' A Lord Mayor, as such, has no place in the general table of precedence, his rank and place being confined entirely to his local jurisdiction, but within his own city he would claim precedence over all persons save members of the Royal Family or the direct representative of the Sovereign." Upon receipt of this I caused a copy to be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor and the Under-Secretary for the information of the Premier, with the following covering letter:—"Under-Secretary for the information of the Lord Mayor, to forward herewith for your information copy of a letter which has just been received from the Registrar, College of Arms, London, dealing with the question of precedence attaching to the office of The Right Honorable the Lord Mayor. In forwarding this I am desired by His Lordship to say that, notwithstanding the decision set out in the letter from the Registrar, he, speaking for himself, will not claim precedence over the Premier, members of the Government, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Judges of the Supreme Court." In bringing this matter before the notice of the council, I pointed out that it was not a question affecting myself personally, particularly as my term of office as Lord Mayor would terminate in a few months time, but I regarded it as my duty, not only to those gentlemen who, in due course would succeed me in that position, but to the city, to uphold and maintain the rights and privileges conferred by His Majesty upon the civic head of our municipal government, and, through him, upon the city.

## DOCTORS IN CONGRESS

### BRIGHT NOTES BY VISITOR

Dr. Robert Pulleine has written for "The News" his impressions of the Australian Medical Congress, which has just concluded in Melbourne.

A lovely day saw the gathering of medical men arriving from all the States at the first Australian Medical Congress, and a brilliant round of garden parties took up the afternoon.

Monday saw the opening by Sir William Macewen of the magnificent new anatomical buildings of the Melbourne University. This colossal edifice, replete with every modern convenience and improvement, was opened by Sir William with a golden key. He also unveiled a monument to the medical heroes of the war, and a procession filed through the building and inspected the museums and exhibits provided for the visitors to the congress. Not the least interesting was the great trade exhibition in the large hall, where instruments, books, X-ray apparatus, and all present-day aids of medicine and surgery were displayed in great profusion.

The exhibit of the Public Health Department attracted much attention, as it took within its scope all parts of the Commonwealth. It showed all the pests of tropical and temperate Australia, including the hookworm, and demonstrated how they were being combated. The exhibit of the Commonwealth laboratories could only be described as colossal in its wealth of serums, vaccines, animal products, and insulin. South Australia can produce insulin much more cheaply than the other States.

#### Opened in Church

A striking exhibit was a room full of doctors' hobbies. Many things were represented—painting, etching, bookbinding, wireless, and anthropological specimens. Leaving the anatomy building, the procession wended its way to the great Wilson Hall, and members were entertained by the president of the congress. The Wilson Hall never sheltered so much humanity.

Owing to the disturbances the town hall was commandeered as the headquarters of the volunteer police, and the great opening ceremony on Monday evening had to take place in the Wesley Church. A brilliant assembly listened to the eloquent address of the president, preceded by one from the Governor-General.

On Tuesday 800 doctors sorted themselves into their several sections, of which there were no less than 12, dealing with the manifold aspects of medicine and surgery. One had to be up early in the morning. At 7 a.m. there were demonstrations and operations in the hospitals, then a hurried breakfast, and back to the meetings at 10 o'clock. At 1 o'clock there was a pleasant lunch in the great common room of the university, then back to meetings from 2 until 5.

After this the real work of the doctors and their wives seemed to begin. The hospitality of the Victorians was so great that the visitors had to work overtime to keep up with it. Anyone not fitted with a self-starter fell woefully behind. After the continuous round of meetings, dinners, balls, garden and theatre parties many of the visitors were glad to get back to their own work for a rest. Friday afternoon heard the last papers read, and on Saturday morning the final general assembly was held. Then the exodus. Every train thickly populated with medical men going northward and westward depleted hotels and smiling taxi drivers.

#### Preventive Aspect of Medicine

The work of the congress included the reading of more than 150 papers and discussions, as well as a number of combined meetings to consider special subjects. These discussions searched medicine from every angle. In every section the preventive aspect of medicine was kept in the forefront.

The congress did much good and added a stimulus to the lives of those who took part. One of the great events was the demonstration given by the youthful professor of anatomy of Sydney and his collaborator on the form of crippling disease called spastic paralysis. Children suffering from this are to be found in every large community, and it has been held to be incurable. Now, by a stroke of genius, the abstract experiments of the Dutchman Boeckle have been turned to practical use, and the affected muscles can be relieved and restores the normal movements of the limbs. This alone would have been a great contribution to any congress.

The section on the diseases of children numbered among its members a little doctor who can be pointed out as the main instrument concerned in reducing the infant mortality of New Zealand until it is now the lowest in the world. This section did a wealth of work toward the welfare of children, especially on the lines of feeding and nutrition in the prevention of diarrhoea.

#### Cause Skin Disease

The pathologists had a busy time with cancer tumors and tuberculosis, and a monumental paper on the diseases of the Australian aborigines was presented.

The eye men discussed maritime accidents caused by defective vision, the causes of blindness and cataract. There was a consensus of opinion that the injection treatment of cataract is worse than useless, that only a few forms of eye disease benefit by its use, and that these are mainly venereal in origin.

The skin men had a South Australian as their president. The great discussions were on the use of radium in skin diseases and the extraordinary action of certain foods in causing skin diseases.

The section of preventive medicine and tropical hygiene had as its personnel the heads of our quarantine system and the medical officers of health of our big cities. Tuberculosis was discussed in its manifold aspects, and the results attained will be of great and lasting value.

All the great social and sports clubs of Melbourne opened their doors widely to the visitors.

## BY THE BLACKBOARD

(By "MAGISTER.")

This column is intended for the terse discussion of educational theory and practice and the problems that arise from time to time. Contributions are welcomed.

#### Art Studentships

Twenty-five scholarships, entitling the holder to instruction at School of Arts and Crafts, are awarded annually by the Education Department. Each entitles the holder to free tuition from 9.30 to 4.30 at the school. Candidates must be under 21 years of age. The object of these studentships is to give a thorough artistic training in drawing, painting, modelling, design, and craft work, so as to enable the holder to take up art as a profession or to qualify for a position in which a knowledge of art is essential.

Application must be made on the printed form obtainable from the School of Arts, and must reach the principal not later than December 6.

#### Country Woodwork

During this year the teaching of woodwork as the manual training subject of country schools has been extended. It is now taught in 47 country schools as compared with 34 last year.

Teachers of the subject have received their qualifications either at Saturday morning classes, such as are established at Gilbert street and Mount Gambier, or at the annual school held each January. To assist such teachers, a special booklet has been published which gives the syllabus in detail, and much general valuable information regarding the matter and methods of this subject.

Men students in the Teachers' College have received a course in woodwork this year, so that a still greater extension of this subject may be expected, as practically all the male teachers of the department will, in course of time, be qualified to teach woodwork.

Miss Naughton, of Eden Hills, is the only lady teacher in the State, who has taught this subject.

#### Teaching of English

It will be recalled that sickness struck down Mr. Edgar Allen, M.A., who is senior master at the Adelaide High School, just as he intended to deliver a paper on the teaching of English before the recent conference, held at the University.

Mr. Allen has gone out of the beaten track to make the study of literature enticing not only as a study, but as an appetiser and as a solace. There is no doubt about the success of his scheme.