# POOR BRAINS.

BRAINS OF CRIMINALS AND OF THE IDIOTIC AND IMBECILE.

Some Analogies Observed Which Are Startling and Significant-The Incorrigible and Morally Insane-The "Jukes," of New York.

[Lucinda B. Chandler in The Current.] It is not, perhaps, as universally understood that poor brains burd in society with imbecility and idiocy not only, but with criminality as well. Enlightenment has wonderfully modified the estimate of the root of evil in humanity, and that the hu-man heart is by nature "desperately wicked" is, if not an absolete tenet, quite a frail article of belief, and we longh gone to pieces as a basis of ethi a: or religious teaching. The study of poor brains is helping to advance general intelligence toward the re-ordering of society that will eventually eliminate them. At the National Conference of Charities, held at St. Louis last Cetober, Dr. I. N. kerlin, su-perintendent of the Isstitute for Idiotic and Feeble-Miuded Children in Elwyn, Pa., read a most valuable paper upoa "Provision for Idiotic and reeble-Minded Children." An interesting and highly-suggestive point referred to is the similof brain in idiots and criminals.

To further establish a doubt as to our present interpretation of the nature and origin of crime, he considers the researches of a pathologist, Morez Benedikt, "signi ficant." In his published "Anatom cal Study of the Brains of Criminals" are describes the convolutions of twenty-two brains. He found in these a marked poculiarity, a tendency of the principal fissures to run into each other, producing what he terms a "con uent fissure type-not a formation of new fissures by the develo )-ment of new convolutions, but the cutting up of a comparatively simple series of convolutions by the formation of secondary fissures, or the prolongation of those usually existing beyond the normal limits, thus distinctively altering the normal formation of the sur ace (the active) part of the brain.

"Hardly an idiotic brain has been exsays Dr. Kerlin, (in the train-ol), "which does not show this amined. ing school), departure from what is regarded as the normal type, and in many of them to a marked degree." "Corresponding obser-vations," he continues, "with the same results, have been made by Dr. Mills, of Philadelphia, and by foreign observers, showing very decided analogies between the bruns of criminals, and he brains of the brains of criminals and the brains of idiotic and imbecile persons not under criminal accusation.

Are the relation of poor brains to these dangers, and the humane and effective management of criminals, not problems on which the most vital issues hinge? Dr. Thomas, of Chicago, recently testified that "society is not protected nor crim-inals reformed under our penal system"which statement needs no contrination.

What can more surely accomplish the protection of society than to prevent the raising of criminals?

In Scotland a movement has been inaugurated toward life continement of the incorrigible, morally insane, and imbecile classes, "that their propagation shall cease," "Of 6,000 prisoners examined in Scotland, by competent authority, 12 per centum exhibited decided mental weak ness, independent of those who became actually insane.

Dr. Kerlin, in commenting upon the notorious Juke family, whose .0, de-scendants burdened the state of New Juke (the founders of this line of crim-

# FUNERALS IN RUSSIA.

#### Respect for the Funeral Processi.n-The Corpse at Church-Lamentations. [Khol's "St. Petersburg."]

Black coffins are seldom used in Russia; coffins are generally brown, but children have pink, grown-up unmarried girls skywhile older females are indulged blue, with a violet color. Among the poorer classes the coffin is adorned with pine branches; while among the rich, the whole way from the habitation to the church is strewed with the same.

The coffin is carried to the church untovered, that the acquaintances who may happen to meet it in the street may have a happen to meet to in the steer tage. The last glimpse of their friend's face. The lid is carried 'before. The contains foi-lowed, even in the day time, by a band of torch-bearers, with broad cocked hats, and enveloped in long black mantles.

All those who meet the funeral procession take off their hats, and offer up a prayer to be aven for the dead\* and so carnest are their devotions that they do not replace their hats until the calvacade has disappeared from sight. This mark of respect is shown to every corpse-to Russians as well as to Protestants and Catholics. In the church the corpse is again set out in state, and the priests, clad in black and white, and holding in their hands wax lights enveloped in crape, supply the dead with everything they judge necessary for the journey. On his fore-head is placed a fillet ornamented with hely "saws" and images. In his hand is stuck a cross of wax or other substance He then receives the passport.

Even a plate of food is placed near the coffin. This funeral dish is termed kul a. and generally consists of rice cooked with honey, formed into a kind of pudding. This is strewed with raisins by way of ornament, and on the top lies a cross of the same fruit. The wealthy, instead of raisins, use small pieces of sugar.

After this a mass, in Lussian e clesias-tical language Fanichide, is chanted by the priests. During this the relations take the last farewell of the departed, all kiss his hand, and amongst the lower orders the most doleful and eloquent addresses succeed. If the deceased be a married man, the widow gives way to the most moving and poetical expressions of sor-row. Wringing her hands and staring all the while at the face of the corpse as if he were still alive, she cries now louder

now more gently: "Golubotschik moi, Trushotschick. Alas! my little dove, my little friend, why hast thou deserted me? Did I not prepare everything at home for thee with love, that thou must spurn thy wife? Woe is me! How fresh and well didst thou sit with me and thy children only six weeks ago, and playedst with thy little son Feodor, who is 3 years old; and now thou art dead and still, and answerest not a word to thy wife and weeping children! My little friend, my husband, lord, awake! awake!"

Amidst this lamentation without end the lid of the coffin is closed, and the proces-

sion moves on to the burial-ground How Sermons Are Made.

## [London Truth.]

Some curious revelations as to the process by which sermons are manufactured were given in a case in the law courts recently. A vicar at Deptford had, it seems, employed the wife of a foreman in a manufactory there to assist him in concocting his sermons, promising to "remember her" in his will by way of remuneration. He however, omitted to make one, and her obim of 100 promote trading claim of 100 pounds sterling a year compensation was not legally enforceable, though, if the vicar inflicted two sermons scendants burdened the state of the way of the state of the way of the state of the way of the state of the state of the way of the state of the sta a Sunday on his congregation, the amount Tobar authorities, and set the in order." The idea is excellent, and for the increased employment of women and the improvement of sermons is to be men, foremen, "and others.

#### Misary Loves Company. [Chicago Herald.]

[Chicago Herald.] An incident at the new opera house the other day exhibited to good advantage a phase of human nature. A loiterer stood gazing in at the open door in the rear of the stage. Immediately below the door was an open cellar window, out of which a workman occasionally threw a shovel-ful of dirt. (f course, the loiterer was not aware of the workman's operations, but in a few minutes he received notification thereof in the shape of a mass of dirt colliding with his legs. He ste, ped back, but another loiterer took his place. In a few minutes he, too, was brushing mud from his pantaloons, while No. 1 walked away, grinning. Still another man came up, unaware of the ate of his predecessors and soon had an experience identical with theirs. No. 2 then walked away, in his g ee at the mishap of No. 3, entire y forgetting his own solled gar-

ments. The next comer was a fat, flashily The next comer was a fat, frashing dressed sporting man, who wears good clothes and is very prout of them. He, too, peered in at the stage door, and posed as if he might be the proprietor of the building on dress parade But the un-seen wielder of the shovel in the cellar be-low we be respected of the constraints of her low was no respecter of persons, and by this time his s ade had reached most earth. The result was a couple of quarts of wet, dripping clay plastered profusely upon the observers's spring pantaloons from the knees downward. No. 3, who. of course, stood handy by waiting for the fun, did something more than smile. He laughed outright.

You seem to think it funny, don't you?" growled the soiled sport, savagely. "You might have told a feller." "There dida't anybody tell me, " replied

No. 3, continuing his laughter. Euch is human nature.

## J-ke on a Poet.

[Chicago T'm s.] Miss Louise Imogene Guiney, some four or five years ago sent to The Boston Transcript a poem in imitation of the style of Mr. T. B. Aldrich. The rhyme was tucked into the pigeonhole of an edi-torial desk with Mr. Aldrich's name on it until its authorship was forgotten. One of the traditions of The Transcript, which with true Boston conservatism is clung to with unwavering pertinacity, is the print-ing every Saturday of a set of poetic gems from well known authors. busy day Miss Guiney's verses were inad-vertently dragged from their retirement and printed, the signature of Mr. Aldrich still clinging to them. They were as follows:

#### TWO DOLLS.

There was a golden god, brave wrought From out the worker's cuaning thought, That shattered fell, by lightning cleft, And bore its temp's to the ground.

Dear heart! my words are faint and few; There was a stately child we knew, Whose hopeless house, of him bereft, Lies ruinel now the year around.

This really is, to use Miss Guiney's own word, "quite Aldrichistic; " but the amusing part of the matter is that it deceived Mr. Aldrich himself, who wrote to the editor of The Transcript asking where the lines were found, adding that he "seemed to remember writing them, but he could not recall them, and he had no copy o them." Explanations and a good deal of harmless laughter followed, Mr. Ald rich joining in the mirth as heartily a unyone.

#### A Watch with One Wheel. Inter Ocean.I

A curiosity in the way of watches was shown by E. Sordet, director of the Watchmakers' school at Ceneva, before the horological section of the society o arts. This wonder is nothing less than wat h with one wheel, manufactured i Paris in the last century by a Mr. Gau trin. The watch was presented to the National institute in 1790, being then in a eplorable state; but the teacher of the reairing section at the school, Mr. Emile James has, after many hours of labor, succeeded in re establishing harmony between the various organs, so that it is now a going order. The great wheel which gives the watch its name occupies the bottom of the case and the center of the plate, it has sixty teeth and is 33 mm, in diameter. Its axis carries two pinions one of which receives the motive force from a barrel, and the other carries the minute work. The function of this great wheel is quadruple. First, it acts on a lift, then on a lever operating on another destined to lower the axis of the watch, and lastly on a third lever, the latter serving to return power to the great wheel at the moment when the action relents by the rise of the axis.

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inals, paupers and prostitutes) might have been recognized as unfit members, and very consistently with the public welfare and their own best interests, have highly commended to the wives of clergybeen detained for the better part of their lives in jails or sequestered in asylums. He counts "the general mental enfeeblement of the whole Juke race such that only profound cases of idiocy could protrude themselves into recognition above the low and sensuous level of this stock of half-wits.

To eliminate poor brains must be con-sidered a vital and paramount service. If the state may sequester criminals for the safety of society, and sequester the insane, imbecile and idiotic for their own protection, the next step in order is to summon science and study to ascertain the avertibl causes of idicey, insanity and crime.

#### T. e 1 rince'. Mechanical Bird. [Chicago Tribune.]

Those versed in the occult lore of the soothsayer and the reader of portents should be able to discover some strange meaning in a comi al incident at the Rawil-Pinde durbar. "The guests," we we are to'd, "found it extremely difficult to preserve their gravity as a mechanical bird in a golden cage, intended as a present to the young prince of Kabool, warbled forth melodiously at a most untimely moment just when the foreign secretary was interpreting the ameer's ex-pressions of gratitude to the viceroy and the queen empress." The gouty ameer was in no way disconcerted, although the bird kept up its warbling till he had ended.

#### A Denver Game. [Exchange.]

A Boston man who lately made a marriage and went west on his bridal tour was approached by a person at Denver with the inquiry:

- "Jist bin mar'd?"
- "Marry rich?"
- "She was worth \$100,000." "Is her father living?"

"Good! I'll send you \$25,000 worth of stock in a silver mine for \$2,000. Her money will pay for it, and you will be \$23,000 ahead. It's a game we play almost every week, and the parties are gen crally from Boston."

# Making Charcoal.

(Exchange. The best quality of charcoal is made from oak maple, beach and chestnut. Wood will furnish, when properly charred, about 20 per cent of charcoal. A bushel of charcoal from the weight twenty-nine pounds: one from hard wood weighs thirty pounds: 100 parts of oak make nearly twenty three of charcoal, red pine about twenty two, white pire

wenty-three.

### Awfully Lonesome

[Newman Independent,] Lord Chesterfield says: "Choose the company of your superiors." That's just what we have been doing, and it makes us awfully lonesome.

#### London's Sandwich Industry.

Sandwiches are a great staple in Lon don. Forty thousand women are daily engaged in vending them, not to mention the thousands who assist in their propers.

#### Slow to Learn. [Texas Siftings.]

An Austin negro, familiarly known as "Rabbit Hash," has returned to Aus 'n after an absence of several years. Where have you been all this time.

asked Uncle Mose. "Where's I been? I's been in Mezzica.

"How did you like it dar : "De country am mighty fine, but de Mezzicans am de stupidest folks I hie

struck yet." "So dey an not so peart as de culle folks?'

"Lawd, no. I libbed right among 'en. foah yeahs, and when I leff 'em dey didn't understand me a bit more den when I fust kom dar. Dey am de slowest folkses ter larn I has struck yet."

# Paper Slippers.

#### Scientific Americ

Faper slippers are the latest form in which paper is introduced in new inven-An Englishman has ratented a tions. system of manu acturing slippers, sandals, and other coverings for the feet out of paper. Paper pulp, or papier mache, is imployed for the upper, which is moulded to the desired form and size, and a sole is ro ided made of paper or rasteboard, eather board, or other suitable ja er material, which is united to the upper by means of cement, glue, or other adhesive material. The upper is creased, embossed. or perforated at the instep and sides, which renders them somewhat pliable. and prevents their cracking while in use.

#### Delay in Flogging. [Exchange.]

By the exertion of the late Capt. Mar-By the exertion of the late Capt. Mar ryat (mainly instrumental in suppressing the vile system of press gangs) no naval officer may indict flogging until twenty-four hours after the commission of an of-fense, so that punishment may not be the result of passion. In Scotland, by an act of George I, no sentence of death can be inflicted on the south side of the Forth in less than thirty, and on the porth in less less than thirty, and on the north in less than forty days.

#### A Dead Craze. [Chicago Tribune.]

The sunflower craze, florists say, it quite dead. The sunflower had to pas; away, of course, soon after Oscar Wilde, the gentleman with a hand like a ham; but we have the consolation that the seeds are just as good as ever for chicken-feed. And what this great nation needs is an egg diet.

#### Scientific Hatting. [Exchange.]

Science has come to the aid of base-ball players, and announced for the benefit of batsmen who are ambitious to make heavy hits that the ball should be struck at the angle of twenty-three degrees in order to send it to the greatest possible distance.

### A Convenient Verb.

The Mongolian language has a con-venient verb, "to thus," meaning, "to act in this fashion." "I thus it, you thus it, he thuses it; I thused it, "etc., making it an attractive conjugation.

### Life on the Planet Mars.

Professor Lockyer is of the opinion that

human life on the planet Mars may be very much like life on the earth: the light cannot be so bright, but the organs of sight may be so much more susceptible as to make the vision quite as good. The heat is probably less, as the polar snows certainly extend farther, but by no neans less in proportion to the lessened power of the solar rays.

He agrees with others that several very emarkable seas including inland seas some of them connected and some not onnected by straits with still larger seas, are now definable in the southern hemisphere, in which, as in the case also with the earth, water seems to be much more widely spread than in the northern hemisphere. There is, for example, a south-ern sea exceedingly like the Baltic in shape; and there is another and still more remarkable sea, now defined by the observations of many astronomers, one near the equator, a long, straggling arm, twisting, almost in the shape of an S laid on its back, from east to west, at least 1,000 miles in length and 100 in breadth.

#### A Crushing Criticism. [Exchange.]

International description of the second state of the second state

the minor key.

## A Cinched Historian. [Chicago Herald.]

[Chicago Herald.] Capt. John A. Sloan, after writing a subscription history of the North Caro-lina troops in the war and securing only fourteen subscripbers, returns them their money with a letter, in which he says: "I shall fold the old flag around the manu-script and put it away in a vault, with this epitaph on its wrapper, 'Soldiers, here lies your history by your side in this vault, all that is known or written about you; so fares it with your cause; ft, too, sleeps as a dead man, a stone for its pillow."



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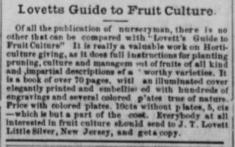
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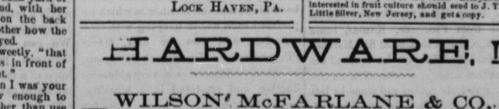
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