

The Crisis in Ireland: Account of the Present Condition, of Ireland and Suggestions Towards Reform (Classic Reprint)

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Summary:

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These figures, varying as they do in town and country are highly significant of the mental condition of the people of Ireland. Where industry exists and the population has more or less ample field for activity, lunacy is lowest; in districts where the outlook is shut in and life holds out no bright future, there the minds of the people become atrophied and die. Every doctor agrees that the mind loses its balance and the brain becomes soft and useless more by reason of disuse than over-use. The agricultural labourer leading a monotonous life on a small wage, poorly fed into the bargain, is the probable lunatic or idiot of to-morrow, and not the judge or professional man who day by day uses his brain almost to the point when physical endurance breaks down. The dulness of life in the country districts of England has been largely responsible for the fact that lunacy in England has been on the increase. In ten years the ratio has grown by over 13 per cent. But, even so, the rate for the whole of England and Wales is still only or nearly less than the average of the whole of Ireland, while it is about one third that of Waterford, and half, or less, than the rate in Clare, Kilkenny, Kings County, Carlow, Wexford, Tipperary and other Irish counties. In these terrible figures relating to the outflow of population to America and the inflow of population to the lunatic and idiot asylums, we have an indication of the social and mental condition of Ireland which it is impossible to exaggerate.

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The Crisis In Ireland: Account