

their money. What is printed on the paper does not much matter, so long as there is plenty of paper." (*September 24th, 1917.*)

"Imbecile *v.* Feeble-minded: 'The imbecile is distinguished from the feeble-minded by this—that the feeble-minded can, and the imbecile cannot, under efficient supervision and control, earn enough to keep body and soul together. When controlled and supervised his labour has this market value. The labour of the imbecile costs as much or more in supervision and control than the product will bring in the market.' (*June 21st, 1917.*)"

SIR JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE AND THE MAUDSLEY LECTURE
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

CRINDAU,
DUMFRIES, N.B.;

August 7th, 1919.

DEAR MAJOR WORTH,—I am much gratified by the invitation of the Medico-Psychological Association which you have conveyed in such kind terms, and shall be glad to deliver the first Maudsley Lecture in London in May, 1920.

I am keenly conscious that there are many who are much more capable than I am of representing the most advanced stages of that movement in mental science which Maudsley did so much to inaugurate in this country, but I have this qualification—and it is that no doubt that has procured me your honouring invitation—that I was a contemporary worker with him in the field which he so intensively cultivated from the beginning to the close of his career.

Believe me,

Yours very faithfully,

(Signed) JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE.

Major R. WORTH, M.D., etc.

IMITATIVE SUICIDES.

IN the course of a recent inquest Dr. F. J. Waldo, Coroner of the City of London, made some interesting observations on the imitative factor in the causation of suicides. He pointed out that, as was his custom, he had merely read in court two or three material, relevant lines from the bulky correspondence found on the body of the deceased. The jury and others interested in the case had had an opportunity of perusing the documents in full. The reading of details in court lead to their publication by the press, which not only gave pain and distress to the relatives, but, he believed, often led to further suicides by suggestion and incitation. For example, a short time ago three brothers, one after another, took their own lives by placing their heads in the same stove with the gas turned on. A lessening in the number of suicides would undoubtedly follow the suppression by the press of detailed reports of sensational and "interesting" cases of suicide. If any class of case might advantageously be held in private by Coroner and jury to the exclusion of the press and other members of the public, he thought it was that of a certain number of selected cases of suicide. He did not for a moment suggest, for instance, that cases in which the good name of an individual was at stake should be held other than in the presence of press and public. The return of weapons, such as pistols, knives, ropes, etc., by which suicide was accomplished, to relatives also in some cases acted injuriously by suggestion and incitation. Dr. Waldo added that he was a great believer generally in the usefulness of the full publicity of the Coroner's court, and he trusted that before long the pre-war constitutional and uniform method of sitting in all cases of inquisition with a jury would be resumed.—*Medical Officer*, October 25th, 1919.