

510 Boston Building,
Salt Lake City, Utah.
Sept. 24th, 1924.

Mr. James Devine,
Warden, State Penitentiary,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Friend Devine:

Recently Dr. George Allen and myself have discussed the case of William Pfister, at present an inmate of the penitentiary. I examined him in person one afternoon last week. The question has arisen as to whether or not this man is insane. I therefore wish to make the following comments, which will express my views.

Some weeks ago I examined this man's mother while she was an inmate of the Salt Lake County Hospital. I examine many cases having mental trouble and therefore I often do not remember in detail all facts regarding their case. In her case the Charity Organizations inform me that she and her husband often disagreed and lived apart, that she was dissatisfied, inefficient and often had peculiar ideas. At the time of my examination she had jumped out of a second story window probably with the idea of suicide, at that time she was mentally irresponsible. Coming from a home of this character and born of parents with this makeup, it can be assumed that William Pfister had a poor start. At various times I have seen this man, but could not say that I was personally acquainted with him. I have verified the fact that the public at large, recognized him as feeble minded, therefore there is nothing new in that idea.

At present he does not have the physical appearance that he formerly possessed. He is thin and weak. He recently recovered from a successful herniotomy, yet he complains seriously regarding his stomach. He is anxiously concerned. His complaints are indefinite. He begs for castor oil, to relieve intestinal symptoms, and if sufficient amounts are not forthcoming he will try to steal same and will take extremely large amounts, etc. His memory apparently remains at about his normal. Actual tests as to intellectual capacity are surprisingly good for one of his behavior and known characteristics.

The term insanity implies, at least, a disorder of the mind, manifesting itself in a more or less prolonged departure from the individual's standard, in feeling, thinking or acting, resulting in a lessened adaptability to the environment. There are individuals who cannot be classed as normal whose peculiarities have been a part of them, they are commonly known as "characters", the public even speak of them as "goofs" at times and other terms are sometimes applied. These cases are not always insane and yet under adverse circumstances they are prone to become insane. Cases of this nature are usually classed as Constitutional Psychopaths.

Again there are individuals whose intellectual capacity is below the average, these individuals are not capable of being highly educated, they are about as responsible as children of a corresponding age, so when such