

Texas Press Clipping Bureau

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A BRAVE MAN, BUT RASH

Dr. William J. Hickson of Chicago, director of the Chicago Psychopathic Library, and a well known and reputable alienist, probably has enough material on hand now to begin a scientific study of the progress of vituperation in the English language. For last week he released a newspaper interview saying that women are 20 per cent crazier than men, or that 20 per cent more of them are crazy.

"I don't want to be mean to the ladies," he told a reporter, "and tell them outright that they are dumb. But the figures say so and it must be true. Of the 17,000 feeble-minded treated by this department in the last 12 years, 60 per cent have been women."

Of course, the interview was wired all over the country, and no doubt the doctor received enough fervid replies to remind him that discretion is the better part of valor.

Incidentally, Dr. Hickson advances a new cause for insanity or feeble-mindedness: "Many girls of medium intelligence become insane or feeble-minded," he said, "because of their lack of effort to use their intelligence."

That is interesting but not altogether convincing. Mental faculties, like all others, deteriorate from lack of use, but so far as we know Dr. Hickson is the first reputable alienist to claim such deterioration causes insanity.

If this were truly a cause of insanity or feeble-mindedness the national rate would advance even more rapidly than it does. And women would not long hold their 20 per cent lead. Men are equally guilty of this "lack of effort to use their intelligence."—Ft. Worth Star Telegram.