

"He Certainly Was Not Responsible" Declares Expert on Law Interpretation. FORMS OF INSANITY SHOWN. "It Delusion That Wrong is Right is Complete Marderer Cannot be Punished," is Lawyer's Deduction. From the opening address of the defendant's counsel in the trial of Harry Thaw for the killing of Stanford

tendant's counsel in the trial of marger K. Thaw for the killing of Stanford White and the examination of wit-nesses it appears that the only real defense will be insanity, and that the form of insanity relied upon will be insane delusion—that is, an insane de-lasion that White had runned the de-fendant's wife, or an insane delusion that it was necessary for the defendant to kill White in self-defense or in de-fense of his wife, or an insane delu-sion that the homicide was an act of Providence, and the defendant the agent of Providence in committing it. There is also some intimation that uestion and the defendant the emotional insanity may arise. In view of this outlining of the defense of the law procured from Mr. William I. Clark the solutor of a number of works on the Cyclopedia of Law and Procedure, known as "Cyc." He says: "To say that a man is guilty of no

SAYS THAW MAY BE

FOUND INNOCENT

known as "Cyc." He says: "To say that a man is guilty of no crime in New York if he kills another while insane, although true as a gen-oral proposition, is too indefinite. It is necessary to go further and ascertain what is meant by the term insanity, for it admits of degrees and appears in va-rious phases; and it is necessary to go further still and ascertain what is meant by the term inder the laws of New York, for the law of this state on insanity as a defense differs from the law in some of the other states. COMPLETE INSANITY.

COMPLETE INSANITY. COMPLETE INSANITY. "Under the Penal Code of New York (sections 20 and 21), as under the law in all other states, a man is not re-sponsible for a homicide committed while insane, if the insanity was such that he did not know the nature and quality of his act or did not know that it was wrong. On the other hand, to exempt from responsibility in New York, although it is otherwise in Ala-bama, New Hampshire, and some of the other states, the insanity must be such as to have this effect. In this state sec-tion 20 of the Penal Code declares that an act done by a person who is an as to have this effect. In this state sec-tion 20 of the Pénal Code declares that 'an act done by a person who is an iduo, imbedde, lunatic or insane, is not a crime.' But section 21 expressly provides that 'a person is not excused from criminal lability as an idiot, im-bedle, lunatic, or insane person, ex-cept upon proof that, at the time of committing the alyeged criminal act, he was laboring under such a defect of reason as either, (1) not to know the nature and quality of the act he was doing, or (2) not to know that the act was wrong,' and section 23 provides that 'a morbid propensity to commit prohibited acts, existing in the mild of a person who is not shown to have been incapable of knowing the wrongfulness of such acts, forms no defense to a pro-secution therefor.'' These provisions prescribe the only test of insanity as a defense in criminal cases known to the have of New York, and therefore, al-though medical experts may agree h is testifying, he is nevertheless crim-minally responsible if, notwithstanding his defective or perverted mental con-dition, he knew the nature and quality of his act and knew that if was wrong. People vs. Crist, 168 N. Y. 29; People vs. Silverman 181 N. T. 225. Whether he was insame to such an extent is a ques-tion for the jury. The defense must have if it doese, then the jury, in order to convict, must be convinced of his sani-ty beyond a reasonable doubt. NSANE DELUSIONS. INSANE DELUSIONS. "In order that insanity may be suc-cessfully set up as a defense in a pros-ecution for homicide, it is not neces-sary that the defendant shall have been sary that the defendant shall have been totally insane, and on all subjects, but monomania, or an insane delusion, may be sufficient to exempt, although on all other subjects the accused may have been perfectly sane. Whether it is or not in New York must be determined by applying the test laid down in sec-tion 21 of the Penal Code above quoted; and therefore an insume delusion is as tion 21 of the Penal Code above quoted; and therefore an insane delusion is a defense if it was such as to prevent the accused from knowing the nature and quality of his act, or from knowing that it was wrong, but not otherwise. People vs. Taylor, 138 N. Y. 388. The rule as to this phase of insanity in sub-stance follows: 'If the defendant is partially insane, that is, subject to in-sane delusions as to certain things hur stance follows: If the defendant is partially insane, that is, subject to in-sane delusions as to certain things, but in other respects same, he is not crim-inally responsible if the homicide would be excusable or justifiable in case the facts were as his delusion leads him to believe them to be; but if the homi-cide would not be justifiable or excus-able under those chroumstances, the de-lusion is generally held not to free him from responsibility.' To illustrate: If a man kills another under the influences of an insane delusion that God has com-manded him to do so, he is guilty of no crime, for, instead of knowing that the act is wrong, he believes it is right. Of course, whether he did kill under the influence of such a delusion is a quas-tion for the jury on the cridence. The same is true if a man kills another un-der the influence of an insane delusion that the other is in the set of attempt-ing to kill him (the sigver) er to inflict grievous bodily harm, for if such were really the case, the homicide would be justifiable. And the rule also applies if a man kills another under an insane delusion that the killing is necessary to save his wife from death or great bodi-ty harm, for he has the sume right to defend his wife as he has to defend himsel. "On the other hand if a man kills y Harm, for he has the same right to defend his wife as he has to defend himself.
"On the other hand if a man kills mother in revenge under an insane delusion that the other has inflicted a serious injury to his character or fortune, he is fully responsible, for even if the supposed facts were true, they would not justify or excuse the homicide. And the same is true if a man kills another in revenge or jealous pairs of the her has ruled his wife or is attempting to take her from him, for such for justify or excuse. In any case, the her must, to excuse the homicide; and care must be taken to distinguish an insane delusion and the bomicide; and care must be taken to distinguish an insane delusion from the eraneous conclusion of a same mind, which is no defense.



in the same position as if a strange man should seize his hand and compet-him, against his will, to commit the act. In other states, however, this phase of insanity, in spite of the med-ical testimony as to its existence, is act. In other states, in spite of the med-ical testimony as to its existence, is not recognized but such a condition of mind is regarded as mere moral per-version or passion, so long as the slay-er knows the nature and quality of his act and that it is wrong; and this is true in New York under the express provisions of the penal code above quoted. In this state, therefore, an in-sane irresistible impulse is a defense if the accused did not know the nature and quality of his act, or if he did not know that it was wrong, but not otherwise, even though medical experts-may all agree in testifying that the im-pulse was due to genuine insanity, and that it was irresistible. People vs Car-penter, 102 N. Y., 238. EMOTIONAL INSANITY.

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EMOTIONAL INSANITY. "Mere emotional insanity, so called, where the person knows the nature and quality of his act and that it was wrong, is no defense anywhere, and is expressly excluded in New York by the provisions of the penal code quot-ed above. If a man under the influence of excitement, passion, or frenzy, caused by anger, jealonsy, the passion of revenge, or any other cause what-ever kills another, when he has suff-cient mental capacity to know the ma-ture and quality of his act, and that it is wrong, he may be guilty of murder in the second degree only, because of the absence of the elements of deliber-ation and premeditation, which are necessary to murder in the first degree, but he is not exempted entirely from responsibility, even though his excite-ment or passion may have been appar-held, even though he may have also been laboring under some mental de-fect, rendering him more liable than a perfectly same man to yield to the in-fluence of such excitement or passion.

perfectly same man to yield to the in-fluence of such excitement or passion. "This rule, however, does not exclude as a defense genulne insanity, as dis-tinguished from mere turbulence of passion, merely because it was pro-duced by anger, jealousy, revenge, or other like cause. If it was genulne in-sanity, whether total or merely partial as in case of delusion, and prevented the accused from knowing the nature and quality of his act, or from knowing that the act was wrong, it is as com-plete a defense as like insanity pro-duced by any other cause: and if there is any evidence tending to show such genuine insanity. It is within the ex-clusive province of the jury to deter-mine whether as a matter of fact, it did exist.

exist THAW NOT RESPONSIBLE.

THAW NOT RESPONSIBLE. "Referring to the case of Harry Thaw, who is now on trial in New York for the murder of Stanford White, it seems clear from this sum-mary of the law that he may be inno-cent, and the homicide merely a great misfortune. He is certainly not re-sponsible if, by reason of genuine in-sanity at the very time of the homicide, by whatever cause it may have been produced, and the testimony thus far introduced, if true, would seem to show Introduced, if true, would seem to show ample cause for at least a temporary overthrow of reason,—he was incapa-ble of knowing the nature and quality of his act, or incapable of knowing that the act was wrong. And even though he may have been in all other respects same, if at the very time of the homicide, by reason of brooding over the supposed wrongs, or from any other cause, alded perhaps by threats against his life made by White and communicated to him, he was la-boring under a genuine insame delusion introduced, if true, would seem to show boring under a genuine insane delusion that it was necessary for him to kill White as he did to save either himself or his wife from death or great bodily harm, however unnecessary the homi-cide may in fact have been, then he was guilty of no crime at all, for if such were the real facts, the homicide would be justifiable. would be justifiable. "Of course, the existence of such in-sanity or insane delusion is a question of fact to be determined by the jury from the evidence, and the defense must introduce some evidence to prove it. If such evidence is introduced and it is sufficient to raise a reasonable doubt in the minds of the jury as to whether it did exist or not, then, under the law of New York, the defendant must be acquitted.

IRRESISTIBLE IMPULSE.

IRRESISTIBLE IMPULSE. "It is held in Alabama, Massachu-ketts, New Hampshite. Pennsylvania, and a number of other states, that a man is not responsible for a homicide committed under the influence of an insane irresistible influence, although he may know the nature and quality of his act and that it is wrong, on the ground that medical experts practi-cally agree that such a mental condi-tion may exist as the result of genu-ine insanity, and if it does in fact ex-ist in any case, then the person labor-ting under such an infirmity is, in so far a criminal responsibility is concerned.

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