

Now Milton, in early manhood, set before himself with deliberate resolve the aim to produce a great work which should be immortal, showing a confidence in his powers which to others might well have seemed insane presumption. If then we are to accept Sir James Paget's test of mental greatness, we must conclude that Shakespeare and Milton, having been plainly conscious of their mental powers, were not great men. What too of Turner among painters?

An Antilunatic Remedy.

The following epitaph will perhaps be interesting to those who hold the doctrine that alcoholic indulgence has its compensating uses in the prevention of insanity. It is given by M. Lejoncourt, in his "Galerie des Centenaires :"—

Sous cette pierre git Brawn, qui, par la seule vertu de la bière forte, sut vivre cent vingt hivers. Il était toujours ivre, et, dans cet état, si redoutable que la mort elle-même le craignait. Un jour que, malgré lui, il se trouvait rassis, la mort, devenue plus hardie, l'attaqua et triompha de cet ivrogne sans pareil.

If the doctrine be true that surcease of sorrow by alcohol will hold insanity at bay, an apt emendation may be suggested in the well-known words of the Friar to Romeo—

I'll give thee armour to keep off that word
Adversity's sweet milk, *strong alcohol*,
To comfort thee, though thou art *sorrowful*.*

The Consolations of Spiritualism.

We extract from a lecture in the "Spiritualist" newspaper the following remarks, which the lecturer pours out after some reflections upon the dreary belief of materialists "inside and outside the churches":—

And in modern times, and in Christian countries, when by the side of the grave the earth falls upon the coffin of the loved one, and the cry arises of "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust," how

* We put the proposed emendations in italics, lest some one should hereafter seriously quote the lines as Shakespeare's. We observe that the Editor of the "Philadelphia Medical Times" quotes with serious approval "Punch's" regulations that in all future football matches a surgeon shall be on the ground, an ambulance in attendance, a ward prepared at a neighbouring hospital, &c., and strongly recommends them for adoption in America.