

dural space—a common symptom in general paralysis, and one which I maintain is not a sign of over-pressure, but of diminished pressure. It is entirely compensatory; for normally little or none exists there, and in such an undoubted case of over-pressure as is caused by a large cerebral tumour, the dryness of the subdural space and the surface of the brain is a most remarkable and constant feature. Regarding the operation I believe that, if the pressure is caused by a solid growth, a trephine hole is not enough (as a dense membrane very soon forms), but that a large portion of bone should be removed on both sides. If the pressure is caused by cerebro-spinal fluid, which I very much doubt, it may be relieved by draining from the subarachnoid space of the spinal cord much more efficiently, and for a longer time. There has never been successful drainage from the subarachnoid space of the brain. If the pressure is due to the blood, the most frequent cause, I do not advise surgical interference at all, but more powerful, safer, more reliable, and more permanent medical agencies which act on the heart and blood vessels and blood pressure. It must not be concluded from my remarks that I am opposed to these surgical operations; I merely state that surgical interference in most cases is not justified. The operation is quite experimental; but there is full justification when performed in cases which would otherwise be hopeless, as it is simple and not dangerous. Surgical interference may have done good in several cases; but I maintain that its use is still in the empirical and experimental stage, and that we cannot yet put forward the true theory of its therapeutic action, nor can we yet diagnose the exact physical conditions that justify its use.

Hints towards the Prevention of Mental Disorders. By Dr. CURWEN, Honorary Member of the Medico-Psychological Association; Medical Superintendent, Pennsylvania State Hospital for the Insane, Warren.

Every physician in charge of a hospital for the insane should do all in his power to aid in the advance of mental physiology, mental pathology, and physiological psychology, not only for his own immediate benefit as a study; but with the intent of reaching a better knowledge of the mental processes, and elucidating, as far as possible, the recondite problems of mind. These require careful and exact study, but that study will give power to the individual, while it will enable him more definitely to trace the intricate connection of cause and effect in the cases which call for his examination. It is certain that the more thoroughly these processes are studied the better will be the effect of treatment, and the more satisfactory will be the result to the patient and to the physician. He will learn more fully that while medical

study than it has yet received; and by the knowledge thus obtained a way will be found for the more scientific application of medical, moral, and hygienic measures than they have heretofore received.

From the study of mental physiology and mental pathology can also be learned the principles and rules which can be applied to the prevention of mental disorders, and surely no higher object can claim the attention of the alienist than the endeavour to give tone and vigour to the mental powers, and thus prevent a disordered condition.

With the highest type of Christian civilization should be blended the strong features of the old Greek ideas of mental culture and the Roman model of physical development. How can this best be attained? Men too often allow their calm judgment of right thinking and right action to be overborne by their appetites, their desires, and their passions, but that is only an additional reason why they should be taught that such yielding is inflicting an injury and a wrong on them and theirs.

Education, in such cases, is a very slow process in the endeavour to eradicate the errors of the past and of the present time, and because of the slowness a more determined effort should be made to instil those principles which will impress on all classes the elementary truths of genuine hygiene, to be strengthened and made more impressive by constant repetition.

It is an undeniable fact, supported by incontrovertible data, that a large class of idiots is produced by drunken and other depraved conditions of one or both parents. It is equally undeniable that certain forms of disease are propagated by the diseased condition of the parent, caused by a vicious and dissolute course of life, and that this state would go down the generations but for the self-limitation imposed on certain kinds of disease, leading to their extinction. There is no limit allotted to those who obey the commandments, but to those who disobey the limit is fixed and definite.

The law makes no allowance by reason of ignorance of its provisions for those who neglect or disobey, neither are the

men than by the steady, persistent effort to teach them that obedience to hygienic laws means health of body, and vigour and soundness of mind, while the violation of these laws means mental derangement and physical degeneration.

Diligent inquiry and careful observation will demonstrate another class of subjects to which very little attention has heretofore been given. Women of education and intelligence have stated that they could observe in their children certain traits and dispositions which they knew they possessed and indulged during the period of gestation with those children. The more thoroughly this matter is inquired into the more positive will be the information obtained; and does it not point clearly and unequivocally to this fact, that the mother should be urged to exercise a careful control over her temper, and other mental and bodily conditions, if she wishes to have her children free from those neurotic conditions which tend so strongly towards mental disorders?

Everyone must have observed in certain families a very great dissimilarity in the temper, disposition, and mental capacity of the children, and sometimes also in the physical development of those children. Does not the statement given afford at least a partial solution of the difference observed?

Aptitude for certain trades and professions, special inclination to and ability in literature, science, and the higher branches of philosophy, are as clearly endowments of the individual as others are hereditary transmissions.

Another matter demanding special attention is the early education of children—first in the proper control to be exercised over the appetites, the desires, the passions, the emotions, and the affections, which should commence with the dawn of intelligence and be carefully, patiently, and judiciously exercised. This earliest exercise should be the training of the child in the habit of obedience to parental discipline; not the stern discipline which will provoke, but that calm, quiet enforcement of the direction given which will teach more effectually and have a more enduring influence than any stern and harsh command, enforced by severe punishment. This calm discipline, steadily adhered to and

all matters pertaining to the regulation of the moral powers, which will give stability to the character to resist more readily and more effectively the temptations to which all are more or less exposed, and will lead to a more law-abiding disposition.

Obedience to law, thus developed, means social order and good government; disobedience means disregard of law, anarchy, and confusion.

But education has a higher meaning still than this training of the moral powers, in the leading and training of the mental powers so as to fit the individual to take his place in the affairs of life. This does not mean the mere superficial glance at a given subject, but a thorough examination of each particular matter so as exactly to understand what it means and what it leads to, and the thoughtful study of the whole in all its parts and relations, fully comprehending one point before passing to another, and thus being firmly impressed on the mind so as to be of genuine value when needed. It is this thorough mastery of a subject which makes the scholar in distinction to the sciolist, "whose pride is as great as his ignorance."

But beyond this, and intimately associated with it, is the thorough and constant inculcation of sound moral and religious principles which will give each man to understand his duty to God, to his fellow-men, and to himself in his relations in every department of life in which he may be called to act.

"The faculty of knowledge is closely connected with the faculty of moral obedience, which is the right and duty of mankind."

The census report of 1840 gives the population of the United States as 17,069,453; the settled area of the country, 807,242 square miles; and the number of hospitals for the insane, 21. The report of the census of 1890 gives the population as 62,622,250; the settled area, 2,970,000 square miles; and the number of hospitals for the insane, 125. In the Dominion of Canada, in 1840, the population was about 1,000,000, and one hospital for the insane; in 1890 the population was 5,000,000, and the number of hospitals 10.

This steady increase of hospitals for the insane is absolutely

them, and the continuous endeavours to procure the erection of hospitals suitably adapted to the purpose.

Within a few years a class, outside of the hospitals, whose knowledge is limited to a very meagre acquaintance with the character of the insane and the special requirements for their care and management, has arisen, the members of which have assumed the right to dictate just how hospitals for the insane should be constructed and arranged. Acting on the idea advanced by one of their number, that because of the long experience and observation of the physicians connected with the care of the insane they cannot properly and without prejudice give advice and direction in the preparation of the plans and in the construction of the hospitals, they have altered plans and modified arrangements which were prepared with special care and study. The best answer to all such interference will be found in the language of a revered and honoured member of the Association, the late Dr. Isaac Ray, whose words were always carefully considered before they were written down.

“Without arrogating to ourselves any extraordinary wisdom, we believe that the accomplished work of this Association, as well as the character and reputation of its present members, fairly entitles it to a respectful hearing on any matters of legislation affecting the interests of the insane in the establishments devoted to their custody and treatment.”

In every hospital, particularly in those institutions constructed by the State Governments, the larger number of the inmates belong to that class who were active, industrious, and aided by their labours and the payment of the taxes to assist in maintaining the expenses of the Government. Many of them have laid by a small amount for their support, and that of their families, in case of sickness. When mental disorder overtakes any member of their family they are willing to pay a reasonable amount for their care and treatment in a hospital.

A gentleman, in a public position, once used this expression: “Compel them to go on the county.” That seemed a harsh statement to be made by a man of large wealth; and the

There is an old proverb, written more than three thousand years ago, which has come down the centuries with steady verification, "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." Let every member of this Association use his influence, whenever and wherever the opportunity may offer, to induce men to avoid the application of this proverb to themselves, and do all in their power "to raise the fallen, cheer the faint, and heal the broken-hearted."

The trials, the temptations, and the labours of men in every sphere of life are sufficient to depress and cause to despond many who are striving honestly and heartily to discharge the duties incumbent on them in the sphere in which they are called to act, and it behoves every man to cheer and to assist them in every reasonable effort they may make.

In this connection and in face of the steady attempt to crowd together, and at the same time diminish the personal care of the insane, it is the duty of every member of this Association to use his utmost endeavour to introduce into every class and condition of those labouring under mental disorder a more systematic course of individualized treatment, giving to each individual the attention needed by the constant companionship of a cheerful attendant, who shall be required to use all proper means to divert, interest, amuse, and occupy such person, so as more effectually to draw the individual out of the mazes of mental disorder in which he may be involved, and instil more hopeful, cheerful, and practical views of duty and of life. It is worse than useless to advance the idea that the mind is too far disordered to be benefited. Hope never dies, and no one can ever know how soon a bright, healthy idea, implanted by steady perseverance and nourished by faith and love, may develop into such a mental condition as will cheer everyone within the circle of acquaintance. This is no fanciful theory, but a plain fact which anyone may verify by experiment. No one is so circumstanced that in some period of his life he may not be overtaken with trials and misfortunes which tend to try his faith and endurance, and it is, therefore, all the more incumbent to practise, in its fullest meaning, that rule

concluding portion of his address, delivered a few weeks ago, at the Jubilee meeting of the American Association, and they show that in America the same difficulties arise as occur to us here. They also show us that in America, as I hope in these islands, there are enlightened and humane physicians who devote their best attention to endeavouring to alleviate the suffering of the most afflicted of our fellow creatures. No one could have heard Dr. Curwen's words without being touched by their manifest earnestness, and I am sure that every member of this Association is glad Dr. Curwen has come and favoured us with this paper, and brought us such pleasant messages from the other side of the Atlantic. I hope that we shall at these meetings often welcome our colleagues from America.

On Moral Insanity and its Relation to Criminology. By
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It is an undoubted fact that the diagnostic terms *moral insanity* and *obsessions* have been the cause of serious misconceptions in science and in criminal practice; and, further, that such misconceptions may paralyze justice and menace the moral standard and even the safety of society. It nevertheless marks a great advance in the progress of psychology to have recognized that many criminal and vicious acts result from congenital defects. These defects are sometimes accompanied by atypical anatomical forms of the body, and especially of the skull; but the value of these abnormalities is relative, not absolute.

The term *moral insanity* has been applied to these cases of congenital psychological defect. But it is equivocal, inasmuch as it excludes other psycho-pathological states, it confounds congenital defect with those other anomalies of moral conduct which result from real psycho-pathological processes.

It will therefore be advantageous to substitute for the expression *moral insanity*, the expression *moral depravity*; and to distinguish between the active form (*moral perversity*) and the passive form (*moral deficiency*). We must distinctly differentiate between those cases of immoral or criminal conduct which result from anomalous moral organization, and those which are symptomatic of a disorder in which intellectual, sensory and motor perversion combine.

The second group is to be diagnosed and treated by