

at once accepted as an axiom in that such were devil-possessed, and to-day, Anno Domini 1900, several acquaintances of mine, including clerical as well as lay persons, cling to this idea. The result was cruelties inflicted upon the insane, a mere recital of which would make the very blood run cold. These barbarities were inflicted to a greater or less extent until the beginning of last century. This demoniacal delusion, which meant that a personal devil had, by occupancy, possession of the individual in body as well as soul, was modified by the idea that mental dethronement was simply "a perversion of the soul, in fact, equivalent to sin." "The mind was the immediate seat of the disorder, and could be clearly traced to its origin sin, error, passion."—(*Heinroth*.)

Dr. Burrows in his standard work, and modern at that, says: "Madness is one of the curses imposed by the wrath of the Almighty on His people for their sins." This erroneous idea was universal, and still prevails, not merely among the ignorant, but also where the school-master is abroad. It is a vicious doctrine which holds that all sinners who become insane are so because of sin as a cause. This does not mean simply violaters of physical law, but also those who are morally bad. To become insane means wickedness. The good, the gentle, the noble in character, and those of whom the world is not worthy, have become insane by the tens of thousands, while many a vile wretch has escaped this dire infliction. Many of our citizens have had mental aberration because of hereditary tendencies in which they could have no part or lot, because of that inscrutable law of transmission—not of disease, but of liability thereto—if all the conditions necessary to evoke the latent weakness are present. A sunstroke, a fever, maternity, a blow on the head, worry, great afflictions, mental anguish, over exertion, heredity, are among the many causes of insanity; but they come upon saint and sinner without discrimination as to moral guilt or worth, and without mercy.

THE SURGICAL TREATMENT OF CLEFT PALATES.*

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Mr. President and Gentlemen,—Before entering upon the discussion of this subject I desire to express to you my deep appreciation of the round of applause which you so heartily gave yesterday on the reading of a telegram from my distinguished colleague, Prof. C. N. Johnson, who was formerly one of your

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