

indulgence in the gratification of the senses and appetites, or some form of selfishness.

Disease arising from an action, or a line of action, which is pursued altogether irrespective of others, because it is a source of pleasure to the individual performing it, is, I believe, much commoner than appears at first sight, or than we should be inclined to admit. I will not attempt to enumerate the different diseases which are constantly springing out of some form of excess, many of which do not admit of any doubt. From the crown of the head to the sole of the foot, commencing with the various forms of cerebral disease, and terminating with what I presume may be called that agonizing complaint of the great toe, I think it will be found that deficient self-control stands in a very prominent etiological position. But it may be urged that excess in all its forms has not so very much morbid influence, otherwise the amount of disease would be more commensurate with the great prevalence of bad habits. There must be a peculiarity of constitution, or a something else, to produce the effect. Most likely ; but at the same time, if we have positive evidence of the sequence in ten or fifteen per cent. only, it is not irrational to infer that the ratio in all probability is considerably greater, although incapable of positive demonstration. If it were possible to strike six persons on the leg in the same spot with the same weapon, and with exactly the same amount of force, it would not be surprising if results differed somewhat in each case. Perhaps in one or two instances only the leg might be fractured. Would it, therefore, be logical to say that, after all, the blow had not very much to do with it ? But, independently of the direct origin and propagation of disease in this manner, are there not many undoubted morbid tendencies produced by drunken parents neglecting to make proper provision for their children ? May not the spread of many of the exanthemata be traced to the selfishness of parents, schoolmasters, and owners of property ? Can we not detect in marriages of consanguinity and the union of delicate individuals a certain amount of selfishness, although it may be disguised in the garb of expediency ? And what other word so aptly expresses the conduct of that mother who forsakes her own child for a time, and places it on the breast of a stranger, in order that she may indulge in the festivities of the ball-room or some other form of entertainment ? Is this one of the signs of progress and civilization ? Is it natural ? Is it human ? Is it right ? In very truth, it appears to me the most unnatural thing in nature. Even if the foster-mother be sober, it is not unlikely to lead to increase of disease. It is well known what a powerful influence anger, grief, &c., exercise over the quantity and quality of the mammary secretion. Notwithstanding those who are sceptical on this point, I feel thoroughly convinced that the state of the nervous system in the mother when she is suckling does affect the health of her child, not only in body, but most probably in mind also. It is not to be expected that the foster-parent will display that tender emotion towards her nursling, or be so anxious to control her feelings and