

verdict of acquittal, or, on this ground, a mitigation of punishment. The *impulse* is not insanity, or, if so, then is such mental alienation normal, among mankind. This emotional *vis a tergo* may come involuntarily, like any other forbidden thought, but all men with reason in full tonicity can ostracise it immediately. If not, such are unsound, independently, of all such exciting impulse. The "moral self-control" spoken of, as a cure for insanity, resolves itself into a determination of will. Moral considerations may not be factors at all. Selfish or self-love motives do determine acts more potently in a majority of cases, than any sense of right or wrong and *apparent* spontaneity of mind may only be an incited change of modes of life, from an innate desire of self-preservation or other equally potent motives. In the eye of the law a drunkard, who commits murder, or any other heinous crime, while in the mania of intoxication, is held to be as guilty, as if perpetrated when sober, because his deplorable condition had been brought about by voluntary act: yet, the man who harbors and nurses unholy passion, until it becomes a second nature, and consequent upon this state, commits a foul deed, in wild delirium, although the initiatory impulses were, so called free volitions, is absolved from guilt, on testimony of aberration of mind. It is often, only intermittently, that the latent fiend is raised to do devilish and "fantastic tricks." External circumstances, or internal excitement may be the *occasion*—the sparks to the gunpowder—of burst of fury, during which deeds of evil are done. A few years ago, I had a patient aged 14 years, whose skull had been crushed in by a kick from a shod horse. Nine pieces of bone were extracted. One of them had been driven over an inch obliquely into the substance of the brain. The membranes were ruptured, and nearly an ounce of the lacerated brain oozed out, or was cut away. He recovered and went to school, as formerly. Here were "bumps" whose internal economy was sadly interfered with, and their rivals on the opposite side, or on the same side, had a fine chance of domination, but sensibly did not take advantage of suffering colleagues, and co-workers, believing in a duality of interests. The same school-mistress taught him before the accident, and after it. The psychological wonder in the case, follows. There was still a hollow, where the brain had been removed, showing deficiency of cortical substance; yet, his memory—arithmetical powers—logical expertness—temper and acuteness of observation, were, for about