

Family History.—Her father died at 77 years of age from senile debility, her mother at the age of 68 years from the "grippe." She had seven brothers of whom four died young, the three living brothers are in good health. Three sisters are also in good health.

Personal history.—Mrs. F., had eleven children and one miscarriage. She never showed any nervous trouble. About 18 years ago she noticed that a tumour was growing on the dorsal surface of the foot. Inconvenienced by its growing volume, she had it removed six years later, but the wound did not heal until a piece of necrosed bone was removed. After six or seven years the disease reappeared and she was admitted to the hospital in an excessively debilitated condition. It was pointed out to her that an operation was the only means of saving her life, and amputation of the leg was performed at the lower third. Secondary hæmorrhage was very abundant.

She left the hospital on the third of July in a very anæmic condition and, two or three months afterwards, began to show symptoms of melancholia. She saw everything in black; "as big as mountains," and was afraid of falling into poverty. This state of melancholia would begin towards evening continuing until the following evening, and was succeeded by a period of mental exaltation lasting the same length of time. The melancholico-maniacal fits, succeeded each other regularly from the time they first began and were followed by lucid intervals. Although not severe, they were yet perfectly distinct. Their beginning had been quite insidious.

In the first case reported there had been a former attack of insanity, collateral, and perhaps direct, heredity, inasmuch as the parents were unknown; and the effect of the traumatism was only to bring forth the intellectual troubles in a brain already prepared.

In the second the patient did not show any neuropathic history, hereditary or personal, and it is not possible to look upon any previous occupation, dread of operation, or the fear of death, as a determining factor. She knew that the operation alone could save her life, and she courageously decided to undergo it. The results of the operation were excellent and the recovery rapid. It must be concluded, therefore, that the operation alone was sufficient to cause the mental trouble.

Alcoholism and Responsibility—The Social and Administrative Aspect of the Question.

Dr. G. VILLENEUVE read a report on the above named subject. (See page 928.)

Dr. VALLÉE. The communication that Dr. Villeneuve has just made us is very interesting, but I do not entirely agree with the conclusions of his report.