

cept in cases where there was a reasonable prospect of healthy issue proceeding from such marriage, and there is no doubt whatever in my mind that either by special enactment, or by the force of public opinion, the reform here contemplated will at last be effected, and disease of all kinds be, through it, enormously reduced in amount. In the meantime, while we are waiting for direct action by the State, something should be done to enlighten and caution the whole people on this point. For this purpose, the powerful influence of the voice of the clergy of all denominations ought to be invoked; no worthier subject could occupy their talents, and in no way could their energies be more usefully employed than in combating this giant evil. And it lies directly in their path; for in the case of insanity, its primary causes, nearly all consist in violations of the moral law. Still more might be done, and surely at last will some day be done, through the educational institutions of the country. If anything in the world is worth teaching, certainly some knowledge of the nature, causes, and means of avoidance of preventable diseases is so, and there is no doubt that in time the schools will see their way to include some such course in their curriculum. By means of these two agencies, and a third as powerful as either of them—namely, the press—something material in this direction will no doubt at last be done, and it seems to me a matter of wonder that more has not been done already. But, in the meantime, no State in the world is doing its duty (and duty here, as in all other cases, is synonymous with enlightened self-interest) in the case of insanity, in investigating those very matters which it is so essential to have the people taught, *i. e.*, the cause, nature, and method of avoidance of this disease. Speaking broadly, the State holds in its Asylums all the lunatics of the country, and it therefore controls more or less directly all original investigations into the disease. But at present the only persons who have access to the patients have, by their positions, so many and such onerous duties assigned to them, that it is impossible for them to do anything material in this