

ions, whether of perception or of emotion which it receives, during which process the patient is only partially conscious, if conscious at all, of what we describe as emotion, motive, deliberation and choice, and that it is very doubtful if the resulting groups of bodily motions which we call voluntary action are voluntary properly, at all. Are they not rather automatic and the product of disease? I do not believe that the brain, an organ of such extreme delicacy and intricacy, can be poisoned by alcohol or opium and then perform the mental functions in the usual and healthy manner. Jurisprudence must make allowance for the profound emotional perversion of the mental faculty produced by stimulants and narcotics and always present to a greater or less degree in dipsomania and morphinomania. The feelings, affections, propensities, temper, habits and conduct are affected in these cases.

*Dipsomania and morphinomania principally affect the knowledge by which our actions are guided; the feelings by which our actions are prompted and the will by which our actions are performed; and all this must be considered in reference to the responsibility of persons shown to have done acts which but for such effects would amount to crimes.* I think the law needs to be amended so far as to incorporate the above proposition, which is strictly in accord with our present medical knowledge. It is strictly in accord with psychological medicine and mental pathology. The use of opium tends to sterility and impotence and to the extinction of the reproductive propensities. Hearing and vision are not unfrequently affected and insomnia is very common. Tremors and an unsteady ill-balanced gait are generally observable in all well developed cases. The effect of opium is invariably, although in different degrees, agreeable, soothing, stimulating and elevating; culminating as opium smokers describe in perfect bliss and complete oblivion. This stage is soon succeeded however by languor, lassitude, loathing of food, aching of the limbs, gloom and indefinable wretchedness, and these sensations are only relieved by increased indulgence, which gradually results in a complete degradation and progressive cachexia, which if not checked by the cure of the morphine habit, kills the patient. The same course of destruction of mental and physical health rewards alike the rich and