

1. Those free from hereditary alcoholic taint: 96 per cent. were proficient, 4 per cent. were dullards, 18 per cent. suffered from some neurosis or organic disease.

2. Those with hereditary alcoholic taint: 23 per cent. were proficient, 77 per cent. were dullards, 30 per cent. very deficient, 76 per cent. suffered from some neurosis or organic disease.

From these studies we conclude:

First. Alcohol at the threshold of life is a bar to success and a foe to health.

Second. Alcohol, by destroying the integrity of nerve structures, lowering the standard of organic relations, launches hereditary influences which by continuous transmission gain momentum and potency and leave their impact upon gland and nerve until mental faculties are demoralized, physical energies hopelessly impaired, and the moral nature becomes degenerate and dies.

Third. If we are to make any material change in the ranks of mental deficient we must adopt methods of prevention as well as methods of cure.

It is a momentous problem that confronts us. The spirit in which we meet it may be a possible aid or hindrance to its solution.

PROGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF MIDDLE EAR DEAFNESS.*

By W. L. ZUILL, M.D., Professor of Otology, Laryngology and Rhinology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Los Angeles, Cal.

SPEAKING in a broad sense, we may say that deafness of recent origin is curable, while that of long standing is not. This statement, however, must be influenced by the causes of the condition, and is not to be applied to every case of long standing or recent deafness.

Syphilis, for instance, may cause a very sudden deafness which may never disappear, even when the treatment is begun immediately, in another case of cerumenous collection in old people, may have been the cause of deafness for years, and gradually increasing; such a deafness can be relieved at once with an aural syringe and a little warm water.

It is a fact that in long-standing affections of the ear, whether suppurative or non-suppurative, there will be found such structural changes in the middle or internal ear as will not yield to treatment, even after the cause has been removed.

GENERAL TREATMENT.—We may discuss the general treatment of middle-ear disease under three headings:

(1) Prevention.

(2) Treatment of non-suppurative middle-ear diseases.

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