

at last the disease manifests itself, as it inevitably must, nothing is left but a mental and physical wreck. Little personal effort is made by these inebriates to secure escape. Through some unknown method, these poisons select the higher centres of life, the moral characteristic is the first to disappear, the mental follows; the physical life, the least valuable, offers the greatest resistance. The clinical characteristics vary greatly with the individual, his hereditary tendency, his social acquirements, and from many other causes. As a rule, however, the different phases of inebriety run along definite and well-defined lines. The incipient stages of the disease are, therefore, easily discernible, and are early manifest to the family and to the family physician. Of course, sooner or later the whole class of inebriates require medical assistance and supervision. The acute cases, and the periodic drug storms, are frequently, and often very successfully, managed by home treatment. The General Hospitals likewise offer accommodation and methods for the therapeutic management of this particular class.

There is, however, another picture quite familiar to every physician. There is the class in which the disease manifests itself early in life, and goes on progressively from day to day, and from year to year; there may be periods of intermission, there may be none. There is the successful business man, who, after a life of toil, with marked success, becomes a confirmed inebriate. He may, and possibly has been, a moderate alcoholic for years. There is the successful physician, the dentist, the man eminent in law, the woman of social distinction, upon whom inebriety, of some form, has fastened, and who are daily drifting farther away from escape and recovery.

Every medical man knows the line of treatment that should be followed, but, under existing circumstances, he is powerless to act. Home treatment in these cases has proved a failure, though followed with care, patience, and skill. The periodic trips to the General Hospitals have lost their value, indeed they have become a nuisance to all concerned. And this leads us to the "desirability of establishing an institute to which inebriates may be committed by legal process."

In a careful and rather extensive review of the literature on this subject there appears to be but one view, and that is, that success in the treatment of inebriates cannot be obtained without restraint. Kraepelin gives his views in the following words: "We must, therefore, try to induce all our alcoholic patients to abstain completely, if we would obtain permanent results; even then there will be many disappointments; still, it is possible in