

ignorance, have succeeded in giving to the "hopelessly insane" a measure of health and comfort. We are yet upon the threshold of knowledge with reference to this subject, and all information that can be offered should be readily received and thoroughly sifted until this much-neglected subject be brought to a degree of effectiveness at least equal to that of other departments of medical science.

In a province like British Columbia, but emerging from the pioneer period, subject to booms and strictures somewhat more acute than the older provinces, with a population composed too largely of adventurers, remittance men, "degenerate scions of noble ancestry," Asiatics *ad nauseam*, and subject to occasional attacks of Klondymania and political indecision, it is not surprising to find our insane population comparatively large; but when we look to Ontario, possibly the most favored of our provinces in resources, climate, and in civil, religious and educational advantages, with industrial competition at a minimum: in fact, where all the forces that should tend to the development of an ideal race appear to focus—why, we ask, should a province under such exceptional conditions give one insane to every 325 of the population? The answer to this question must be sought for in a direction other than that in which alienists have been searching: nor is it to be solved by the coming of new nomenclature by the nervous specialist. Theoretical speculations with regard to the psycho-neuroses and abnormalities of the neuron may be more interesting than profitable, while campaign theories that determine the amount of mental aberration by the number of gallons of spirits consumed per capita are unworthy of serious consideration.

An excellent definition of iniquity is, "a diseased or disordered condition or malformation of the physical organs through which the mind receives impressions or manifests its operations by which the will and judgment are impaired and the conduct rendered irrational." With the almost universal acceptance of insanity being due to physical disease, and that "mental disease," aside from functional or organic abnormality, is a myth, we may look for the causes of insanity, first, in the chief organ of the mind, the brain, and subsequently in other organs in the degree of their closeness of connection with the brain. Sufficient evidence is at hand to show that the conception of insanity as related to the primary disease of the brain alone must be abandoned: yet we cannot but admit, in all cases of insanity of extra cerebral origin, a secondary topic, reflex or functional disturbance of the cortex. Admitting the action upon the cerebral cell of a remote irritation, we must also admit the possibility of such irrita-