

few years, viz :—Grief ; Love ; Loss of Property ; Religious Excitement ; Religious Despair ; Family Quarrels ; Jealousy ; Fright ; Disappointed Affections ; Excessive Study ; Reading and Fasting ; Intemperance ; Breach of Promise of Marriage ; Suppression of Menses ; Slander ; Want of Employment ; Marriage ; Miscarriage, and bad treatment ; Spirit Rapping ; Death of Child ; Death of Husband ; Death of Wife ; Business Difficulties ; Political Excitement ; Disputed Boundary ; Strong Tea ; Eclipse of the Sun ; Religious Controversy ; Inhalation of Nitrous Oxide Gas—(in the case of a young man hereditarily insane, and whose brother was then an inmate of the Asylum !) ; Reading Religious Books ; Tobacco ; Remorse of Conscience, &c., &c.

Now, if any one of the preceding wide spread agencies may be regarded as adequate to the overthrow of reason, how many lunatics should this Province contain ? Intemperance alone would people fifty Asylums as large as our present one. Jealous wives and husbands would probably fill thirty. Bad treatment of husbands would equal intemperance. Political excitement would tenant a mad-house in every county, and one of superior class and size in the metropolis. Religious controversy would send in half the clergy of this Province, and large detachments of their congregations. Tobacco and Slander would leave few in Canada at large. Excessive study, solar eclipses, love, inhalation of the laughing gas, and remorse of conscience, would probably make up but a small aggregate. In 651 cases of lunacy, admitted by me into this Asylum, I have met with only one instance in which the last named agency was alleged as the cause of the insanity ; and the patient had not been very wicked.

Religious excitement and religious despair both come in for their full share of censure ; and yet we meet with few cases in which either can be regarded as purely causal.