

such a patient often manifests an utter disregard of truthfulness, honesty and sincerity and after a time shows a seeming inability to exert the will in any other direction or for any other purpose than the gratification of his morbid appetite. While writing my book on the "Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity," recently published, I had a very interesting correspondence with the late Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, a judge of the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division. If we are to hold with him that "sanity exists when the brain and nervous system are in such a condition that the mental functions of feeling and knowing, emotion and willing, can be performed in their regular and usual manner," then it is very problematical whether any case of alcohol or opium habit is strictly sane, for both these poisons, opium and alcohol, induce a state in which one or more of the above named mental functions is performed in an abnormal manner or not performed at all. Their due importance is not attached by lawyers to the more delicate obscure forms of disease of the brain produced by the use of alcohol and opium, and one reason is that medical science has but recently brought them to light and medical men to-day are by no means unanimous as to their nature and effects. Cases of dipsomania and cases of morphia addiction of long standing do not take the drugs they indulge in voluntarily, but on account of an irresistible craving which is a disease. They are sick men and women and it is very problematical how far they are responsible for any overt act they may commit.

It is a very delicate question in medical jurisprudence as to how far and in what cases does the fact that a person is a dipsomaniac or a morphinomaniac relieve him by the law of England or the United States, from responsibility for what would otherwise be a crime? How far is that law reasonable, in the lights of medical science to-day? From a long experience with cases of Inebriety and the Morphine Habit I think that in cases of dipsomania and morphinomania that the nerves carry to the brain a variety of abnormal and delusive impressions of external objects and occurrences, that these abnormal impressions excite emotions which affect many parts of the body in various ways and which in particular affect the brain; that the brain in some manner deals with the impress-