

mediately prior to our entrance into the war, 8.6% of first admissions were of the alcoholic type. In 1918, under the wartime ban on strong drink, the alcoholic first admissions dropped to 5.2%; in 1919 to 4.0%; and in 1920 under constitutional prohibition, to the low level of 1.9%. It must be borne in mind also that this 1920 low record is for the year ending June 30, 1920, and that during the fiscal year the federal prohibition amendment was in force for only 5½ months. Of the 122 new cases of alcoholic insanity admitted to the civil state hospitals during this fiscal year, 75 reached the hospitals before January 16, 1920, and only 47 after that date up to the time Dr. Pollock wrote the article.

Moreover, as Dr. Pollock points out, nearly all forms of alcoholic insanity result from long continued and excessive use of alcohol and it would therefore be expected that some cases would develop after the public sale of intoxicating liquors ceased. The marked reduction already noted would indicate, however, that excessive drinking has been much lessened.

DRUG CASES LESS, NOT MORE

An interesting side light is that the fear of many people that the abolition of alcohol as a beverage would lead to increased indulgence in the use of narcotic drugs has not been realized. During the past year the drug cases among first admissions have actually been less than in the year previous. In 1920, drug insanities represented only 0.2% of all first admissions.

How much effect will the decrease in alcoholic insanities have in lowering the general incidence of mental disease? Dr. Pollock gives in his article a table showing the rate per 100,000 of general population of all first admissions to the civil state hospitals in New York State from 1909 to 1920 inclusive. From 1909 to 1917 there was a steady trend of increase in this rate, reaching the conspicuously high figure of 69.0 per 100,000 in 1917, due, in part, no doubt, to the great emotional disturbances accompanying the entrance of this country into the war. Since 1917, coincident with the decrease in the alcoholic rate, this general insanity rate has also steadily declined to 67.3 in 1918, 66.3 in 1919 and in 1920 to 63.3, the lowest general rate of increase in this state since the year 1912.

The Province of Manitoba has embarked on an extensive building programme in connection with the care of the Feeble-Minded and Insane. During the past year the first unit of the school for the feeble-minded was commenced, a colony building was completed, a nurses' home and psychopathic unit commenced at the Hospital for Mental Diseases,