

Work, 1; Fatigue, 1; Sunstroke, 1; Fall from a Horse, 1; Cut on Head, 1; Matter on Brain, 1; Meningitis, 1; Recent Cephalic attack, 1; Ill health, 1; Anxiety about Family, 1; Family in Slavery, 1; Business perplexity, 1; Weakness, 1; Critical period, 1; Measles—16 years before, 1; Accident—long ago, 1; Unknown, 74.—Total, 185.

In the above total of 185, no cause is assigned in 74, or two-fifths of the whole number. Had the whole 185 been thrown under the same head, perhaps the real interests of psychological truth would not thereby have been much damaged.

The editor of a respectable Western paper, in noticing my last Annual Report, suggested, that if on a future occasion I should write at some length on the causes of insanity, I might thereby render useful service to the public. No intelligent person who will read the preceding list of *assigned* causes, closing as it does with a two-fifths unknown portion, will believe that I am prepared to throw much additional light on this already sufficiently beclouded subject.

It is, nevertheless, a fact that the information conveyed in the assigned causes of insanity, is often of much practical value; and it is occasionally of much negative importance.

In the list of assigned causes above given, the following may be regaded as genuine, viz:—Epilepsy, Masturbation, Excessive smoking, Puerperal convulsions, Over-lactation, Hard Work, Fright, Injuries to the Head, Religious excitement, Intemperance.

The following are of equivocal value:—Love, Jealousy, Excessive study, Sunstroke (as it probably never happened), Politics (not required), Pregnancy (as it was only imaginary), Leaving England, Matter on the Brain (of the doctors?), Sickness of Wife, Measles (sixteen years before), Imbecility of Mind (a discovery !)