

Legislation the Provincial Board of Hygiene has had a bill accepted which will surely bring the best results. This legislation will contribute to lessen the number of cases of general paralysis. It will, to say the least, give to those afflicted by this sickness, the facility of being scientifically treated without being oppressed by so-called specialists.

Egotistical zeal is no zeal. Let the physicians on all occasions teach their clients the dangers of the day. Do not speculate on human degeneration. Help to build a nation. There will be enough natural causes of sickness to keep the doctor busy and thrifty. Let your ambition be that of being a curer, a saver, a helper, a giver of health, happiness and joy, a distributor of life, a consoler, and the reward will surely follow. As you sow, so shall you reap. Let us therefore strive to educate the people on the serious consequences of syphilis and try to cure those that are plague-stricken.

A third cause is heredity. Please permit me to quote a few lines from Morel. "By the observation of the links and reciprocal dependence of pathological phenomena transmissible through heredity I came to create the great and important varieties of hereditary alienations. I have proved that betwixt the simplest anomaly in the laws of moral sensibility designed under the name of moral mania, reasoning mania and those states more or less properly called imbecility, idiocy, cretinism, there exists degrees of the same affection."

Heredity, it is sure, is a great factor in mental alienations. Alcoholic heredity, says Dupuy, is the most frequent cause of idiocy, feeble-mindedness and madness. The sons and daughters of alcoholics have a tendency to lying or pseudomania, to theft or kleptomania, to the abuse of liquors or dipsomania. "The drinker", says he, "breeds the degenerate and the degenerate breeds the drinker." As to heredity through syphilis, it is no less obvious.

But what have we done to come to practical results? Have we reflected on the cerebral ravages caused by epilepsy? This sickness is hereditary, when not the results of intoxication or an accident. Have our medical societies, in lectures and reports, and the physician in his office given practical advice to the sick or his relatives? What have they done to enlighten the bride or the bridegroom on necessity of avoiding marriage with an epileptic? What have they done to check the marriage of the syphilitic? Have they shown to the parents the dangers of letting their daughters marry a drunkard, a debauchée, a syphilitic, an epileptic?

Time will come when candidates for marriage will have to show their sanitary testimonials in order to be allowed to legally do so: when everyone will feel the necessity of protecting himself against the possibility of contagion and of a breed of insane or idiots.