

bodied individuals, who, as a rule, work much more willingly than when confined in institutions for the insane. Many patients who are quite unwilling to do any work whatever when so taken care of work readily and cheerfully.

From an economic standpoint, Germany, the State of Massachusetts, and other places where such a plan has been tried, have abundantly proven that colonies, as adjuncts to insane asylums for chronic patients, are most valuable.

The Relation of Alcoholism to Epilepsy.—M. Woods, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 9th Feb., 1907.

In this article Woods points out that his experience has led him to believe, that the factor of prime importance in considering the etiological significance of alcohol in the production of epilepsy is the condition of the parents at the time of conception. When either parent is in a state of intoxication the likelihood of the child conceived at such a time becoming epileptic is very great.

The statistics of various authors in regard to the development of epilepsy in persons whose forebears were alcoholic, are given; and the interesting figures of Martin, who found in going over the histories of one hundred and fifty insane epileptics that 60 per cent. had intemperate families with four hundred and ten children, one hundred and eight were epileptic. The statistics of Bourneville are also worthy of attention. He found in examining 2,554 children suffering from idiocy, imbecility, epilepsy and hysteria, that 1,053 were the progeny of drunken parents.

One of Woods' cases was quite convincing—in this, a healthy temperate father had two healthy children, he became intemperate, had two other children, one of these developed epilepsy when six years of age, the other had paresis with epilepsy.

The significance of an alcoholic inheritance is very obvious throughout this careful clinical analysis, and furnishes additional ammunition for the therapeutists who stand out against the use of alcohol as a remedial agent, or for any other purpose.