

ad infinitum, or is it doomed by perversion of natural law to exhaustion and decay?

These are problems to which as psychologists we should address ourselves. It is our business to study every phase of mental phenomena. We are the mind searchers as well as the mind healers of the race. It is our special province to speak *ex cathedra* on such questions, and public opinion has a right to hold us guilty if we remain silent. In the great struggle for existence between social and economic forces there is ever an increased complexity of relation requiring a greater differentiation of brain development, and as long as this is conducted on physiological lines there seems no limit to its attainment. On the other hand, if it can be shown that amid all this splendor of achievement there are exhausting, disintegrating processes at work which are slowly but surely undermining the whole moral and social fabric of the race, then it becomes us as scientists to sound the alarm, and to light up the hilltops of science with beacon fires of warning against impending dissolution.

LESSONS OF HISTORY.

History teaches us many useful and important lessons, but there is one lesson most pertinent to the present inquiry, and it is this, that all the nations of antiquity of which we have any authentic record, began to crumble and decay at the very time they had reached the zenith of their power and glory, and further that a proud imperialistic spirit and lust of empire were the immediate forerunners of national dissolution.

It is significant for us to note that, whether by coincidence or by historical sequence of like causes producing like effects, there is manifest to-day a growing imperialistic idea in every branch of the Anglo-Saxon race. We have been accustomed to regard imperialism as the outgrowth of monarchial institutions, but even in the free democratic institutions of America we find an uncrowned imperialism already raising its haughty head. Coleridge in his *Table Talks* states, "The true key to the declension of the Roman Empire, and which is not to be found in all Gibbon's immense work, may be stated in two words—the imperial character overlying and finally destroying the national character." Let us hope history does not repeat itself in this particular, and that the imperialistic spirit of to-day, chastened and purified by the experience of the past, may be the harbinger of peace among the nations of the earth. The Roman Empire increased in size through conquest out of proportion to social and national structure, and there was no cohesive attraction between the conquered provinces and the central authority.