

as might naturally be supposed, to a wide range of experimental research. Nieloux and Barbier, after patient and brilliant work, rich in pathological results, declare that alcohol, when administered to a woman in labor, will appear in a short time in the blood of the umbilical cord and in the placental circulation. From his study, Nieloux holds, that in the case of inebriates, sufficient alcohol would appear in the foetal circulation to set up a chronic intoxication, or congenital alcoholism. Children conceived in drunkenness and suckled by inebriates, fully develop the alcoholic cell, alcoholic tissues, and an alcoholic tendency. From such strong proofs he suggests the absolute necessity for legislation to prevent this form of racial degeneration.

In the *Prague Medical Journal*, Holitscher elaborates his studies on the action of alcohol. He declares it to be a protoplasmic poison that it reduces the vital activity of the cell, with special selection for the more highly organized tissues, the brain, nerve tissues, and blood vessels. Hardening of these highly-organized tissues follows, with physical and mental degeneration.

Drew states that of those committed to the State Asylum of Massachusetts, 93 per cent. were drinkers, or were the victims of alcoholic heredity.

These are the views of all who have given the subject any pathological or clinical study. The alcoholic cell lays the foundation, on the protoplasmic poison the cell is nourished, the tissues formed by these cells must naturally be aberrant in their functions, whether these be mental or physical in their character.

It would appear, as our modern life became more complex and varied, the nerve strain greater, other drugs and poisons began to play a more important part in the causation of inebriety. The nerve strain due to the struggle for existence, the mad race to meet the demands of modern sensuous and luxurious methods of living, lead to physical and mental instability. The soothing influence of drugs is earnestly canvassed, to stave off the inevitable collapse; physicians frequently recommend this temporary and artificial respite, and often indeed become themselves the victims of this fatal malady. Chloral, morphine, cocaine, chloroform, all have their votaries, and their victims—unfortunately a daily-increasing number. In their debasing mental effect, in their action on the ethical and moral life, the course of these drugs is steadily progressive. It is with the utmost difficulty, on many occasions, the disease is discovered, even the trusted family physician is frequently deceived. The most subtle and cunning methods are resorted to, that detection may be avoided, and when