

been raised to over 50 per cent. by including a few others, well deserving of the association, as dread of poverty, disappointed expectations, mortified pride, uncontrolled passion, tight lacing, &c., &c.

Had the table been restricted to the following heads, it might have deserved respect, viz. :

Puerperal state,.....	169
Injuries of the head, .....	54
Masturbation,.....	60
Exposure to cold,.....	4
Exposure to the sun, .....	38
Total,.....	325

Here are 325 cases in 4323, perhaps fairly accounted for, whilst 4000, less two, are worse than unaccounted for. But do we not all know, and has it not always been well known, that the "puerperal state," in a certain small proportion of women, leads to insanity, and can our tabulation of the cases, in any way tend to avert the evil, or improve our treatment of it? The table assigns sixty cases, all of males, to masturbation.—Had the number been 600, it would probably have been nearer the true mark; if not in relation to the course of insanity, at least in relation to concomitance with it. Here we confront an evil of horrid magnitude. It is attaining fatal proportions over the entire length and breadth of this continent. The medical profession, alone, have an approximate conception of its extent. Fully one-third, if not a half of all the male lunatics, and it is to be feared an increasing small percentage of those of the other sex, entering our asylums, are addicted to the vice. It seems legitimate enough to include it in our table of causes; and yet may we not hesitate, under strict medical logic, to admit it as the cause of insanity in every case in which it obtains? We do not admit even intemperance, as the cause in all cases in which it has been present. When we reflect on the very large number of persons, who are undoubtedly embraced under these two heads, and consider how small is the proportion of them becoming insane, does it not comport with sound medical philosophy, that we stop not short in our enquiry, satisfied that we have possessed ourselves of the whole truth, the moment we learn that either of the two destructive habits has been indulged in? Predisposition to insanity is undoubtedly frequently linked with predisposition to the abuse of stimulants; and I believe that even in countries most addicted to intemperance, the opinion of experienced psychiatrists is less distinct than it was some years ago, on the question of the causal relation of intemperance to insanity. If intemperance were *per se*, an