

prolific of the causes of insanity; but it is *only one* of the legion; and let us remember, that it is often very difficult to decide as to what is truly *causal* in the evolution of insanity, and what is but *resultant*. Still, in which ever light we view intemperance, it is a monstrous evil; and its havoc is infinitely greater outside the limits of insanity than within them.

In former reports I have alluded to the very imperfect and unreliable character of the information furnished in medical certificates of lunacy, under the head of *Causes*. Medical examiners of lunatics, in Canada, are seldom able to possess themselves of that full information which is required to enable them to certify distinctly to the origin of the malady; consequently in a very large proportion of cases, no cause is named, or if named, it is given perhaps merely on the affirmation of the relatives of the patient; and in such cases it is generally but one of the early manifestations of the insanity, rather than its cause,—and as to hereditary taint, the admission is very reluctantly, if at all, made.

The following abstract, from the Admission Register, exhibits the assigned exciting causes during the year 1860:

Religion, 15; Intemperance, 10; Epilepsy, 8; Masturbation, 6; Fright, 5; Menstrual disturbance, 5; Puerperal do., 3; Parturition, 3; Cold, 3; Fever, 3; Love, 4; Death of Son, 2; Family troubles, 2; Anxiety, 2; Excessive study, 2; Lactation, 2; Puerperal Convulsions, 1; Uterine disturbances, 1; Death of Brother, 1; Sickness of Wife, 1; Jealousy, 1; Loss of money, 1; Loss of money or Love, (?) 1; Intemperance and Religion, 1; Excessive smoking, 1; Unkind Husband, 1; Abuse by Husband, 1; Leaving England, 1; Desertion of Husband, 1; Death of Husband and Epilepsy, 1; Drunken Father, 1; Spiritualism, 1; Fear, 1; Imbecility of Mind, (!!) 1; Politics, 1; Pregnancy, 1; Hard

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