

no superiority over those of the foreigner. As an instance; A class of 50, in which 90 per cent. of the children had an American ancestry of five generations, but with hereditary alcoholic taint, reported 80 per cent. dullards.

The personal attitude to alcoholic drinks, including beer, wine and spirits, is reported in 34,000 cases, viz.: Abstainers, 73 per cent.; drinkers of beer, 23 per cent.; drinkers of spirits, including wines, 4 per cent.; drinkers of beer and spirits, 12 per cent.

The parental attitude to alcoholic drinks is reported in 20,147 cases: Children of drinking parents, 6,624; children of abstaining parents, 13,523. Children of drinking parents, 6,624; dullards, 53 per cent.; children of abstaining parents reported dullards, 10 per cent.

The close correspondence between the drinking habits of the parent and the mental deficiency of the child cannot be the result of mere accident.

Heredity is a very important etiological factor in mental deficiency and cannot be ignored in its bearing upon treatment.

In dealing with mental deficient we are prone to mistake some symptom for the cause, and in our efforts to remove the manifestations of disease we conceal the main disorder.

It is well for us to recognize that organic disease, tendency to eye-strain, deafness, various neurotic manifestations, and dullness, each may be the sequel of an alcoholic history. These results should not be mistaken for the primary cause of the disturbance.

One causative factor of dullness which should command close attention is the prevailing drinking habit among children. A few special instances may be noted: Four classes, having a total of 184 pupils ranging from eight to eleven years of age, were reported as "unusually dull," but 16 reaching the standard in study. Investigation revealed the following facts: One hundred drinkers of beer, 9 drinkers of spirits, 51 drinkers of beer and spirits—a total of 160 drinkers (about 87 per cent.), 57 of whom drank "liquors" regularly with their meals.

In a class of 60 boys, of whom 40 are drinkers of beer and spirits, it is no uncommon experience to have one or more stagger into the school-room, drunk.

These juvenile drinking habits are not wholly confined to metropolitan schools. In a town of 6,000 inhabitants, 10 children under 12 years of age were found on two occasions in a helpless state of intoxication.

In a village school of 186 pupils, 30 are occasional drinkers of beer and spirits. When searching for two absentees, boys under 12 years of age, the truant officer found them lying drunk under a shed.