

There has been of late a very active discussion of the alcohol question in the Italian journals. The leading medical teachers of that country have expressed their opinions to the effect that alcoholic stimulants, especially wine, in strict moderation, are not hurtful, most of the writers contending that the moderate and proper use of such beverages is even beneficial. Professors Lombroso and Morselli, the eminent psychiatrists, are among the most conservative, and advise abstention whenever the amount cannot be strictly regulated.

The following figures go to show that the lunacy problem is becoming a very serious one in Britain, as they show the numbers per 10,000 of the population in the three portions of Britain :

	<i>England.</i>	<i>Scotland.</i>	<i>Ireland.</i>
1871	30.4	34.0	30.5
1881	32.5	38.5	35.6
1891	33.6	38.4	45.0
1901	40.8	45.0	56.2

These figures are very significant and demand the attention of those interested in the public welfare of the country.

Dr. Forbes Winslow, an eminent British authority on insanity, recently said: "I have no doubt, not only that there is a great increase in lunacy, but also that, if science does not check the increase, there will be in years to come more insanity in the world than sanity. The most prominent among the factors which produce mental degeneration are unfit marriages, and stringent regulations should be made by the State to prevent these. I suggest that those who have once been insane should not be allowed to marry. It may be stated as a certainty that many women who had had a first attack of lunacy would have been exempt from a second attack had they not married. Marriage by habitual drunkards should be prohibited, and paralytics should not be allowed to marry. Further, marriages should be made illegal where hereditary insanity exists on both sides. I feel sure that if these suggestions were carried out insanity would show a decrease."

OBITUARY.

J. L. PEPPARD, M.D.

Dr. Peppard, a well-known physician of Great Village, N.S., went into his office with a friend to have a drink of fruit syrup and water. He took down the wrong bottle, and in this way both he and his friend partook of a fatal dose of strychnine. He died in about an hour and his friend the next morning. He leaves a widow.