

these eminent men, and in support of it advances the following reasons :—

1st. *No disease* occurring after marriage, not even impotence, justifies divorce; insanity being due to a diseased condition of the nervous system, can therefore no more justify divorce than any other form of disease. The insane suffer in their moral and intellectual, as well as in their physical health, and consequently deserve even greater consideration and care from their friends than those afflicted with ordinary ailments. In many cases, it is true, strict precautions must be taken to guard against the effects of mental loss of balance, but these do not necessitate either divorce or separation.

2nd. *Chronic Insanity*, although often incurable, is not necessarily so. It would be both cruel and unjust to make it legally possible for a married man to return to his home after an unexpected recovery from chronic insanity, to find his wife divorced from him and wedded to some other man. The form of Dementia known in France as *Folie Circulaire* often yields such surprises. M. Blanche cites one case of this kind in which, after sixteen years, recovery eventually took place. *General paralysis* is admittedly incurable; yet such long and complete remissions do sometimes occur as to deceive even the most experienced practitioners, the disease seems permanently arrested, and the patient leaves the asylum and returns to his family. With regard to those hopeless cases which are manifestly passing from bad to worse, Charcot maintains that the plain duty of the family is to redouble every possible attention, and wait patiently for the inevitable end, rather than seek for relief by divorce. *Epilepsy*, though generally continuous and a fruitful cause of insanity, is nevertheless sometimes limited to two or three attacks, then disappears never to return. According to Foville, such epilepsies occur chiefly in the young, and are most frequently connected with the eruption of the wisdom teeth. Epilepsy is sometimes caused by the irritation of intestinal worms; the case of a librarian is cited where epileptic attacks ceased after the expulsion of a *tænia*, and did not return during the remaining fifteen years of his life. Chronic insanity should not therefore be admitted as a reason for divorce.

3rd. It is by no means uncommon to meet with persons sufficiently wanting in the moral sense to speculate by marriage on the diseased condition of their fellow creatures. Those affec-

tions which are slow in presenting their true character, but are not unfrequently recognizable in their early stages, such as phthisis and insanity, are particularly adapted to this kind of calculation. The prospect of divorce would be yet another encouragement, and so much the more tempting as regards dementia, that it would be more easy to accomplish an act of spoliation in the case of a person of weak intellect after marriage.

LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA AND SEWING MACHINES.

Gynecologists have long pointed out the numerous derangements of the female pelvic viscera, directly traceable to the continued or immoderate use of the sewing machine. It seems, however, that, besides uterine troubles, other grave disorders may arise from the same cause. In the *Union Medicale* M. Octave Guelliot reports two cases of locomotor ataxia in women, which he attributes to the habitual use of the sewing machine. His theory is that the treadle-movement produces a sort of concussion, which is gradually diffused throughout the spinal cord: he believes that hysterical women are most apt to be thus affected. The first symptoms are sharp shooting pains in the lower limbs, which tend to spread rapidly upwards, are relieved by rest, but return when the treadle work is resumed. M. Guelliot argues strongly for the discontinuance of the treadle and the introduction of some other mechanical motor.

POISONING BY TINNED MEATS.

According to the *British Medical Journal*, a whole family at Northampton, consisting of five persons, have recently had a narrow escape from poisoning. After partaking of tongue from a hermetically-sealed tin they all suffered from symptoms of irritant poisoning due to verdigris caused by imperfect sealing.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

The Annual Convocation of the Medical Faculty of McGill University was held in the William Molson Hall on Friday afternoon, the 31st March. The chair was occupied by Chancellor Day, who was surrounded by the Governors,