

Those engaged in the traffic make use of children as the agents for the sale of the drug. The habit is rapidly increasing. The number of convictions was 30 per cent. greater than six months ago, and 25 per cent. of the victims are children.

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#### CURES UNDER MENTAL INFLUENCES.

From time to time there is a new outburst of news on the "cures" accomplished by visits to shrines, and by the influence of mental treatment, and all its allies.

Recently some Irish pilgrims visited Lourdes and report very remarkable results. An examination into some of these cases has revealed that there was either no disease, or that these persons thought they had derived benefits which they had not in reality.

If one will only take the trouble to read some of the books published during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, such as those by the brothers Bartholomew, Girard, Harrison, and many others, some most astounding examples of cures will be found. Virtues were also ascribed to certain plants and mixtures which we know now they did not possess; but these cures were firmly believed in at that period. We look back upon those days of more than three hundred years ago, and regard these things as superstition and imagination. Three hundred years hence the historian will be doing much the same regarding the "cures" of to-day.

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#### FRESH PROOF OF THE VALUE OF VACCINATION.

Some time ago the State of Pennsylvania appointed a Commission on Vaccination, consisting of Professors W. H. Welch and Jay Schamberg, who hold views in favor of the practice; and Messrs. John Pitcairn and Porter F. Cole, who are opposed to it; and Messrs. Emil Rosenberger, lawyer; Henry C. Lippincott, life insurance manager, and Edward A. Woods, president of a life insurance company, as three independent members of the commission. The commissioners heard evidence for and against the practice of vaccination. Welch, Schamberg, Rosenberger and Woods find strongly in favor of vaccination; while Pitcairn, Cole and Lippincott did not sign the report.

The report states that vaccination protects for a period of about ten years. It also says that if one is vaccinated in infancy and repeated in a number of years the person is immune. It further says that vaccination in infancy and not repeated later in life protects to the extent of greatly reducing the severity of smallpox if contracted.

This report is of much value, as it corroborates the findings of other commissions on the same subject, and that of the British commission of 1896.