

and he will never gain them unless he began learning in infancy to fix his thought and will upon objects outside himself. If such principles of education were more closely followed, hysteria and the "artistic temperament" might gradually disappear, and the hosts of insane people now walking at large, because their disorders of consciousness are not directly menacing to society, might be much diminished. Improper marriages are, of course, at the root of the evil. Bad training is, however, almost as frequent a cause, and is one which in the present state of society is much more readily remediable. To MacBeth's famous question, "Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased?" the modern physician should find a better and braver answer than that of the doctor in the play, "Therein the patient must minister unto himself."—*Pediatrics*.

ANTIDOTE FOR CARBOLIC ACID.

Dr. Seneca D. Powell, of New York, has for a long time used in his clinics at the Post-Graduate Hospital an antidote, alcohol, that we have all come to recognize as a specific. It is not an unusual occurrence to see Dr. Powell catch in his open hands a quantity of pure carbolic acid, poured into them by a nurse from a bottle. In a few moments the doctor puts his hands into a basin of pure alcohol, and no escharotic effect is observed whatever from the action of the carbolic acid upon the skin. At present time we are flushing out abscess cavities with pure carbolic acid and washing them out a few moments later with pure alcohol. In empyema Dr. Powell, after making a large opening in the chest wall, washes out the cavity with a ten per cent. solution of carbolic acid, after which pure alcohol is used, and no bad effect has thus far been observed from this treatment. The cavity of the pleura is rendered aseptic. From personal observations and demonstrations in the use of pure carbolic acid, followed by the use of alcohol, Dr. Phelps states positively that we have in alcohol an absolutely safe and sure specific against the escharotic action of pure carbolic acid. This fact should be given wide publication, because in cases of carbolic acid poisoning with homicidal intent, if, immediately after the administration of the poison, alcohol was thrown into the stomach of the individual, the poisonous effect of carbolic acid would be at once neutralized. However, as to the subsequent constitutional effect from the absorption of the new compound formed Dr. Phelps cannot speak, but certainly in all cases of local carbolic acid poison-