

derangements of thoughts in the *earlier* stages, and later by failure of intelligence, and by nocturnal hallucinations, and suicidal and homicidal propensities." Dr. Maudsley devoted a long and very able article to a description of this peculiar kind of insanity, which was published in the Journal of Mental Science, July, 1868. Not only is this kind of insanity insidious and frequent, but it is in very many cases incurable. The earliest consequences of this fearful habit is a disinclination to apply the mind to any kind of occupation that requires application. Then actual incapacity, general nervous debility—fretful, peevish, capricious, restless, sleepless, *disgustingly* disagreeable, no confidence in any one, or anything, *suspicious* of every body, always looking for something to find fault about, will not agree with anyone upon any subject. Then the accompanying diseases: constipation, indigestion, palpitation of the heart, epilepsy, St. Vitus dance, neuralgia, lumbago, rheumatism, paralysis, imbecility, and lastly *impotency*, at which point the imagination runs riot, and the whole moral nature becomes brutal and degraded. All this may appear startling—it undoubtedly is startling, and almost incredible to those that do not understand it, nevertheless *every word of this is as true as the moral law*. From recent reports of a large number of insane asylums in the United States for the purpose of ascertaining, as near as possible, how many have been driven there by this fearful vice, it has been found that the average is nine per cent., and in one prominent institution *fourteen* per cent. Now what can be more startling than such facts as these? And this is only a small proportion of the misery that is caused directly, or indirectly, by this vice. Who will dare to say that it is not clearly the duty of physicians, ministers, parents, guardians, teachers, and all that have the care of children, to use every means in their power to *warn*, and *instruct* them.

Hundreds have admitted, that have applied for help, that they were never warned against this vice, and lamented very much that they were not made aware of its consequences