

weaken the constitution, and the use of proprietary medicines which contain much alcohol. Climatic influences must not be forgotten.

Alcoholism may be either the result of, or the cause of, insanity. The excessive use of alcohol may cause profound delusional insanity, mania a potu, delirium tremens, or a paranoid condition. The alcoholic may become a paretic or an epileptic. There may be states of trance, catalepsy, or amnesia.

Dipsomania is a form of impulsive insanity, and is closely allied to psychic epilepsy. After a short period of insomnia and anorexia, the victim is seized with an uncontrollable desire for alcohol. The attack is followed by depression. Between these attacks the person may be quite temperate, or even have a marked aversion to alcohol. Once the habit has been formed the freedom of will is almost wholly lost.

Alcoholics should not be allowed to marry. In the first generation we find moral depravity and drink excesses; in the second, chronic drunkenness and mania; in the third, melancholia, hypochondriasis, impulsive and homicidal ideas; in the fourth, idiocy, imbecility and extinction. Bourneville found that of 1,000 idiot children, 630 had alcoholic parents. Beech found that of 450 idiots, 31 per cent. had drunken parents, and Dahl found the percentage as high as 50.

SYPHILIS.

In another part we give a short paper by Dr. Heggie on the subject of syphilis. We wish to make a few brief remarks.

1. Syphilis is a curable disease. This should inspire every member of the profession to be painstaking and persistent. While the iodides control many of the results of syphilis, they are not curative. The only drug we have as yet on which reliance can be placed is mercury and its various preparations. Some use is now being made of some of the compounds of arsenic, but it remains to be seen whether these, namely, soamin, atoxyl, and arylarsonate, will prove destructive to the spirochete. It is true that Professor Neisser has been able to infect the monkey, then treat with these preparations of arsenic, and succeed in reinfecting the monkey again. It is on record that some persons have had a second attack of syphilis, thus showing the complete disappearance of the first infection.

2. The second point is that the disease is caused by the spirochæta pallida, or treponema. It is universally found in lesions of syphilis, which retain infecting power. Experimenters have shown that juices from syphilitic sores only infect when the spirochete is present. The