

successive generation grow stronger morally, mentally and physically.

In this age of excessive activity with its wonderful progress in trade, art and science, taxing brains to their uttermost, comes weariness and failure before life's work is fully completed. Education calls for the deepest search for treasures of science, which will bring to the surface grand results in a moral, intellectual and physical manhood, better prepared for life's work, thus enabling him to grasp great possibilities, and make them subservient to his will.

Civilization's light has lessened the shadows of ignorance and we begin to realize that influences are being generated now that will tend towards good or evil in the ages to come. Increased knowledge shows us the way to improve our schools, tells us what is needed to better protect and make sound in mind and body our youth, but back of this must be a power to make and enforce laws of health.

State and government must be the power, with agents systematically carrying on the work, and controlled and guided by a secretary of health at Washington.

Here on the edge of the century let us make ready for the future and send the rays of a brighter civilization into the next, by an army of perfected men and women whose exalted characters, brilliancy of intellect and physical power will make our nation the peer of all others.—*The Jour. of the Am. Med. Association.*

### DOES PUBLICITY INCREASE CRIME?

When the medical student reaches cardiac diseases in the course of his studies he frequently discovers that he has a systolic murmur or some other alarming symptom of heart disease. This fact is so well known that it has passed into that most ancient of all storehouses from which the college professor draws his jokes. Is this harmless form of

"suggestion" a true index of the effect on the public of a constant presentation to their minds of the details of crime? Do the sensational reports of murders, of rape, incite other men and women to like deeds? Is crime infectious and contagious?

Warren, in discussing this subject in the January number of the *University Medical Magazine*, asserts that newspapers propagate crime in three ways: (1) by suggestion, (2) by creating an insane desire for newspaper notoriety, and (3) by placing a premium on crime. The newspaper stands in about the same relation to the public, according to this writer, as a hypnotist does to his subject; and while there is some doubt whether a hypnotist can by suggestion induce a person to commit crime unless he already has a leaning in that direction, still there are too many individuals who are willing to be persuaded into wrong-doing, especially if they hope to profit by it, to make that excuse of much avail.

As for the effect on the would-be criminal of seeing his name and photograph in the "Extra" of a penny print, there is much direct testimony that boys and others, who have committed some horrible crime such as train-wrecking, were impelled to it by the love of notoriety. Imagine yourself a criminal, considering the chances of being caught if you carry out a certain daring burglary. What would be the relative deterrent effect upon you of the methods of trial and publicity in this country, and, for instance, in Germany? The conditions here do not require description. On the other hand, in Germany, the prisoner drops out of existence, one may almost say, until the result of a secret trial has either released him or separated him still further from all contact with his fellows. It cannot be denied too, that in Germany the scarcity of mercy would have a still further deterrent effect upon intending criminals; but the difference in this respect in our own country is, in no small degree, the result of the