

many organs of the body, but very specially of the nervous system. It is a conservative estimate to put the insanity, due to this cause, at 30 per cent. of the total number admitted into the asylums of the United States, Great Britain and Germany. When it is borne in mind that this is a preventable cause, it would seem that special efforts ought to be put forth to enlighten the public on the evils of intemperance on the one hand and to control the consumption of alcoholic beverages within safe bounds. But the insanity caused by the abuse of alcohol does not represent the whole of the evil arising from this cause. The children of alcoholics are often degenerates, though they may not become insane.

Among the important causes of insanity, syphilis takes a prominent place. About 5 per cent. of the insane suffer with that form of mental derangement known as general paralysis of the insane, or parietic dementia. This form of insanity is in almost every case due to a previous attack of syphilis. Add to the above, cases of insanity due to syphilis, other than parietic dementia, and it is safe to say at least 8 or 10 per cent. of all cases of insanity can be attributed to syphilis.

With regard to injuries it may be said that they are not frequent causes of insanity. When injuries do cause mental derangement there is usually a history of alcoholism or a neurotic habit. Not more than 1 or 2 per cent. of all the insane owe their disease to injuries.

It would appear that there is a definite relationship between insanity and tuberculosis. A large percentage of the insane die of tuberculosis. This amounts to at 12 or 15 per cent. It may be that life in asylums tends to produce tuberculosis; but there is good ground for believing that those with a tendency to consumption first lose their reason, and, after being confined in asylums, become tubercular. The debility, anæmia, cohexia, etc., which are usually present in those with a tendency to consumption, are also important factors in the etiology of insanity. The children of the tubercular often go insane, and the children of the insane often die of tuberculosis.

Some forms of insanity are peculiarly degenerative in their nature. Some of these forms appear during the growth of the body. For some reason, inherent in the nervous system, there is an arrest in the development of the brain, and mental evolution is faulty. Such forms of insanity are met with at puberty, and during adolescence, paranoia is a type of these. Then there is the degenerative insanities of age, the senile insanities and dementias. The vessels become hardened and the convolutions atrophy. With the progressive changes the reason gradually fails.

Sufficient attention has not been given to the study of the condition of the kidneys in insanity. So far as researches in this interesting field have