

## CAN ANYTHING BE DONE TO STOP THE INCREASE OF INSANITY AND IMBECILITY ?

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The importance of the foregoing question will be at once admitted, when we see that by the last Census, there were in the Dominion of Canada 9,423 persons of unsound mind, and that in the Province of Quebec, alone, there were 3,300. All scientific men agree that the question is assuming grave importance; but the difficulty is to see what can be done. \*

\* \* Insanity is a mental disease produced by some abnormal state of part or whole of the mental organization; whether the moral or intellectual faculties, or both. If body and mind are not one, yet so close is the connection between them, that one cannot suffer without the other suffering also, therefore the immediate or exciting causes, and they are many, that produce this disordered state of the mental organization, may be either mental or physical. Observation, however, shows that no man can go mad from any amount of mental suffering, unless he has in him an insane neurosis, that is, a pre-disposition, whether hereditary or otherwise, to go mad. It is an established fact, founded upon observation, that in all cases of insanity, there is more or less devitalisation of the mental organization; and again, that all suffering, whether mental or physical, diminishes vital power, or more correctly speaking, vital force. \*

To speak of the infantile population it is necessary to classify according to mental organization. Some children are born into the world of strong, healthy parents, physically strong, and of a mental organization healthy, strong and well-balanced, that is, well balanced with regard to intellectual and moral faculties. These are fortunate children, that God and nature has done well for. A child of such a stamp, under ordinary training, becomes a great man, great in the true sense of the word, no matter in what position of life he may be. Whether statesman, professional man or mechanic, merchant or farmer, that man will do right, because it is right. He will grow up strong in body and mind. No amount of mental suffering will break him down. He will never find his way into a Lunatic Asylum