

the "milk," and then eats the endocarp of the nut. This is followed by a feeling of abdominal uneasiness and pain, slight diarrhoea, and finally the expulsion of the tænia after some hours.—*Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, March 9.

TINCTURE OF IODINE A CURE FOR WARTS.—Dr. Imossi, of Gibraltar, has been treating warts with internal doses of tincture of iodine in ten cases, all of which resulted favorably. The dose given was ten drops in half a glass of water, twice a day. A slight emaciation of the patient will be regained as soon as the treatment is discontinued.—*Med. News*, Aug. 24, 1889.

PAINLESS EXTRACTION OF TEETH.—Drs. Henoque and Fedel, in a communication made to the Biological Society of Paris, state that the extraction of a tooth may be rendered painless by spraying the neighborhood of the external ear with ether. The anæsthesia of the trigeminus so produced extends to the dental nerves, and thus renders the production of general anæsthesia needless.

THE Progres Medical publishes M. Paul Sollier's Aubanel Prize Essay on the "Role of Heredity in Alcoholism." By abundant and well-arranged statistics, M. Sollier traces the afflictions of the idiot, the epileptic, the imbecile, the hydrocephalic, the choreic, and the mentally debilitated, up to the alcoholic father, mother, or grandparent, in so many and such clearly marked instances that it is quite impossible to deny his conclusions from the data he gives. "Conception in a state of drunkenness of the father or the mother devotes the individual conceived to a condition so profound (idiocy, complicated frequently by epilepsy, hydrocephaly, microcephaly, etc.), so that it is condemned in general to a very short existence." An alcoholic subject runs a terrible risk of conferring upon his descendants either insanity or tendency to vice, or suicide, or hysteria, the milder nervous disorders. The legacy of evil may miss a generation, and then appear in the next like gout. It will generally manifest itself, if it appears in the form of dipsomania, in a taste for the same liquor as that preferred by the an-

cestor, and in its mildest form it will tend so to predispose the unhappy descendant to the evil of inebriety that he will find the freedom of his will in that direction seriously imperilled. The menopause more even than pregnancy seems with women a determining cause of alcoholism. Or its terrible influence may first be manifested after some nervous shock, in sickness, or with advancing age. Hereditary alcoholism has a certain likeness to dipsomania, and it is a fair ground for question whether such a proved condition does not constitute irresponsibility.

ALCOHOLISM.—For some time alcoholism has been engaging the attention of alienists, who attribute to it much of the increase of insanity. During the last fifty years, states a report submitted to the Minister of the Interior, France, the consumption of alcohol has trebled, and the number of lunatics has quadrupled. Crime and suicide are also steadily on the increase. In the years 1872-87 the number of suicides have increased by 55 per cent. Their proportion in regard to the population has risen from 15 to 21 per 100,000 inhabitants. Women resort less frequently to suicide than men. As shown in previous statistics, the frequency of suicide bears a relative proportion to age. Thus up to the age of forty years the propensity to suicide remains the same in women as in men, but after this period it increases regularly with age. The report of the last International Congress for the Suppression of Alcoholism, which was held in Paris from July 29th to August 1st, 1889, contains the old and familiar statement that criminality and mental aberration follow a march parallel with the consumption of alcoholic beverages. It is also stated that the number of crimes and offences against morals is exactly in ratio with the consumption of alcohol. To the influence of the excessive use of alcohol is also attributed the degradation of the race, it being a fact that the health of children almost always suffers from the alcoholic excesses of the parents. To the same influence is attributed in part the phenomenon of the continued diminution in the population of France, more noticeable in some parts