

can be traced, not so much to the transmission of organic disposition as to the subsequent psychical continuation of peculiarities of character, inasmuch as certain eccentricities, odd and peculiar views and maxims, have been presented to the child for imitation." Influences of this nature, transmitted by heredity from the first, are decidedly adverse to the development of a healthy nerve apparatus in harmony with the external world. Again, we know that girls predisposed by nervous temperament, being brought in contact with hysterical associates, become in turn hysterical. This may extend beyond even the predisposed. I think it is reported where whole classes of school girls have become hysterical through the influence of possibly a few associates. It can hardly be judged that all were of predisposed temperament. If this, then, be true, wherein are its bounds? Not only children born into families where nervous affections are hereditary, and where from one generation to another they are persistently under this influence, but even children born into localities where nervous diseases predominate through intermarriage or otherwise, are from the first under unfavourable hereditary circumstances. I believe this to be an alarming truth. Unless of exceedingly strong nervous temperament our associates by their training and examples certainly influence us. Many of us have early derived our religious principles and political hallucinations from this source. Can, then, function disorder be aroused by imitation? If so, then actual disease may be its sequence and disastrous termination under circumstances favourable for its further development.

The next hereditary influence we will notice is rationality. Under this we must regard climate, religious creed, form of government, public morality at large, previous lot or social standing, and degree of civilization. It is impossible, on this occasion, to refer to all in detail, but I must refer briefly to modern civilization. Guistain says: "The present state of society in Europe and America keeps up a general half intoxicating state of cerebral irritation which is far removed from a natural and healthy condition—thus many become insane." Greisinger also says: "I would rather coincide with the opinion