

prospective wife—not helpmeet—seem to demand. I asked a prominent clergyman, active in the moral reform movement, if in his church or in any of the fashionable churches he knew of any serious crusade against the luxury of the so-called Christians being made, and whether he did not think it idle to expect the young men of to-day to control their sexual instincts when everywhere they moved in an atmosphere where the gratification of the senses is the natural occupation of society. Accept the evidence of a criminal episode brought out in the courts concerning the æsthetic libertine on the one hand and the aberrancies of a moral degenerate on the other in the Thaw case, and multiply such examples indefinitely and we begin to realize the intimate relationship between effects and causes and which it is absolutely essential that we comprehend as regards their far-reaching influences if we are in any measure to understand the real causes of the "Social Evil."

At the moment of writing this page I was travelling in a Pullman on Sunday and had impressed upon me the ennui of two commercial men who, the previous midnight, had been stupidly intoxicated, and were again finding in the bottle from the valise their only relief. One may ask, if the habits formed and thus illustrated must not logically result in the danger of such becoming victims of disease, due to the gratification of their desires and which cause twenty per cent. of the inmates of our asylums and whose associates are the abandoned class of our cities? Reading in a Montreal paper on the same train I found an article on "The girl and her liberty," in which was the following: "Such a number of young girls seem to find their way into the courts through being left to exercise a liberty for which they have not been fitted in any way. Owning no one's authority, least of all that of her parents, and with no training in self-discipline, the girl follows her own will or the example of companions as ill-trained as herself, until she comes up suddenly against the consequences of her own folly. The natural guardians, where there are such, having in so many cases failed to look after those of their household and see to it that they did not get into wrong courses, the courts step in."

The immediate reason for the article was the news item that at one session of the Delinquents' Court of that city some fif-