

insanity, because some one recovered his sanity while taking some particular medicine, which, probably had no more to do with the recovery of the patient than if he had taken so many drops of cold water. When you see these reported cases, I beg that you may not let them produce any strong impression upon you. When you for a moment think of the anatomy of the brain and its appendages, and its connection with the whole human frame, even to our most minute organs, by means of the sympathetic nerves; when you consider the nerves of sense, the motor nerves, all forming one great arch, and all connected with the brain; the sensory nerves and the vaso-motor nerves; when you remember that every nerve has its own proper centre, either in the brain, the spinal marrow, or some of the numerous ganglia of the sympathetic, and that the brain, so to speak, is the grand centre of all, you are not surprised to learn that many cases of insanity arise from some functional or organic derangement, of some of the many important organs, whether it be the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, organs of generation, or organs of digestion. Aye, I might even mention our members of locomotion, for I have seen insanity caused by the amputation of a limb, and some of our greatest physiologists have pointed out the fact, of brain and nerve wasting from the loss of an arm. Again, when you remember that the work of the brain is never done, that it is never at rest, you are not surprised to learn of all the organic changes that it is subject to, any of which may give rise to insanity. I say the brain never rests, for to have perfect rest there must be unconsciousness, and there is no such thing as unconsciousness, during life and health. When we see a person in a very sound sleep, we say he is unconscious; he may be to many things, but not to everything. Make some unaccustomed noise, and let that noise be an alarm of danger, for example, and you will see how soon the person will wake up; or touch him with your cold hand, and see how quickly he will start and open his eyes; or bring a light into a dark room where a person is asleep, and you will have the same result, or put some unpleasant odour under his nose, you will have the same result. I know a gentleman and