

It is an often-repeated commonplace to-day, that in consequence of the progress of civilisation and the increase in cerebral activity entailed thereby, neuroses in all their forms have become much more common than formerly. This statement deserves the trouble of verification, and it must be confessed that precise observations for making this verification with some degree of exactitude are still wanting. Besides, even if the pessimists were right, it would not thereby be proved that the entire increase in the number of nervous complaints must be ascribed to the refinements of civilisation and the new requirements that our brains have to satisfy. Intoxications, including the least refined of them, alcoholic poisoning, might rightly claim a large share in the determining causes of the nervous disorders that seem to be special to our epoch.

However this be, notwithstanding the reserve with which scientific prudence enjoins us to receive unproved assertions, we cannot help thinking that, in some circles at least, *Neurasthenia* is commoner than it was sixty years ago.

In any case we recognise it better, and we give it a name when we meet it; facts that may suffice in some measure to explain how it seems much more frequent to us than at the time when it was *unnamed*, or, what comes to the same thing, when it had too many names. Whether its frequency has increased at all, or not at all,