

chronic lung diseases lessen the chances of recovery from a severe injury or shock, and influence unfavourably injuries of the chest wall. The enlarged (or pregnant) uterus is specially subject to injury from falls or other external causes. A latent appendicitis may be made acute by very moderate injuries of the abdomen. Rheumatic conditions may prolong the disability from injuries of the bones and joints. A disease may be the direct cause of the injury, as in epilepsy. The occurrence of disease as a consequence of injury is treated of more fully in another part of this article.

*Alcoholism* is one of the most important factors in regard to injury. Besides being a frequent cause of accident or neglect it may effect very unfavourably the chances of recovery. There is a great tendency amongst heavy drinkers, apparently in good health, to be seriously affected by relatively trifling injuries. The mere fact of confinement to bed through fracture of a bone is very liable, in a drinking man, to lead to an attack of delirium tremens, often followed by pneumonia. Hence, whenever practicable, methods of treatment which permit such patients to be up and about, are preferable. The grave effects of chronic alcoholism, such as ascites, renal cirrhosis, etc., lessen the chances of recovery and predispose to sudden death.

*Occupation.* Certain accidents are specially liable to occur as a direct result of the occupation: toxic effects from inhalation of poisonous fumes, effects of changes of temperature and absorption by the skin of poisonous substances, apart from the direct danger of mechanical injuries from falling bodies, defective scaffolding, or other support; moving machinery, or electric currents, etc.

Over-exertion in connection with employment may be brought about by accident and is a frequent cause of sprains, ruptured muscles or tendons, and of hernia. On the other hand, many conditions ascribed to simulating accident may be really gradual in onset and due to unhealthy occupations. These should be carefully excluded and hence suddenness of onset in accidental conditions is an important point to establish. Predisposing conditions due to occupation may aggravate the effect of accident. The occupation may be such as to render it temporarily unsuitable for persons who have been injured. A tendency to neuralgia, left after injuries, makes exposure to draughts or changes of temperature injurious. Conditions leading to a defective closure of the eyelids or to conjunctivitis excludes from occupations carried on in dusty places. A tendency to giddiness, partial deafness, much loss of vision, or inability to move promptly, makes it dangerous to continue an occupation which necessitates being in the presence of moving machinery or involves the perception of signals. Callings which bring the person much in contact with the public, are more or less debarred to persons having