

are some, however, whose unsoundness of mind is shown by insane conduct rather than by insane ideas, or who, by congenital or other defect, are unable to take care of themselves or manage their estates. The first class belong to the order once known as moral lunatics. The patients, it was said, are insane, but with an apparently unimpaired state of the mental faculties.

Here, as in so many cases, there is beyond all doubt a very great dispute about words. One writer uses a word to mean a great deal, which another does not, or the latter may use the word in a totally different sense. Physicians are quite agreed that there are patients whose acts are insane, yet who have no delusions in the ordinary sense of the word. Everyone can, from his experience, call to mind such cases, but controversy exists as to the name by which they are to be designated.

The highest mental attainment which civilized man can reach is a right rule of conduct regulating the affairs of life with judgment, prudence and restraint. But if this standard is never reached, owing to congenital defect or imperfect development or training, or if the highest centres are reduced by insanity or epilepsy or alcohol, then the mind is likewise reduced from a higher to a more automatic condition. There is over-action of the lower centres from the removal of the controlling influence of the higher. Applying this to conduct, we find that the reduced brain gives way to the gratification of the senses regardless of the consequences, permits indulgence in pleasure to the detriment of self or family, may set at defiance the conventional laws of society, or, possibly, the law of the land. The patient is reduced to the level of the child, or an uneducated or untrained person, and the reduction may go on till it brings him to a level lower than that of the savage. This is no special variety. Any cause which operates injuriously upon the brain function may reduce the individual in this way. He is an altered man, he may possess a perfect memory, may be able to converse brilliantly and argue keenly. He presents no delusion or hallucination, and yet his conduct is different from what it was before. He may not be immoral; immorality is only one form of this so-called variety of insanity, but he is altered, and altered for the worse. He is wrapped up in self. The egoistic part of his mental constitution comes prominently forward, owing to the loss of the higher controlling powers. His affection and feeling for his wife, family and friends are estranged. He is extravagant or penurious. He devotes his time and money to objects he would formerly have despised, or associates with people beneath him. This will go on for a time, and then he will get worse and descend to a