

CONSUMPTION AND MARRIAGE.—In the *Times and Register*, April 27th, there appeared an unusually outspoken editorial under the above caption. The article was written with reference to a breach of promise suit, where the gentleman broke off the engagement because of consumption in the lady's family history. The editorial takes the ground that the future prevention of consumption like that of insanity, must to a great extent depend upon the restriction of marriages among those predisposed to these diseases. It suggests that in a few generations it may be an accepted view that the concealment of consumption or insanity in the family history will be good ground for breaking off an engagement of marriage. Consumption is, no doubt, to a great extent a preventable disease. In any scheme for the stamping out of consumption the question of the marriage of persons springing from an infected stock must occupy a prominent position. How far the State is justified in allowing those with marked tendencies to consumption and insanity to multiply their numbers and thus burden the community is a question that must claim attention.

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INSANITY.—G. Fielding Blandford, in the *British Medical Journal*, April 20th, in an article on "Insanity," says: "If we wish to save our race from gradual mental decay, and not only to preserve life from such ills as zymotic diseases, but to raise up a strong and vigorous breed of healthy men and women, it is absolutely necessary that more attention shall be paid than hitherto to the selection of the individuals who are about to marry and reproduce. If men and women were racehorses, or shorthorns, or greyhounds, their breeding would be regulated, and all diseased or faulty stock would be carefully eliminated, and all inbreeding would be, as a matter of course, avoided. But being what we are, thinking only of ourselves and our own self-gratification, and nothing of the future race, we arrange our unions, and nobody has the right or the power or the courage to prevent us, when we have attained to years of discretion, namely, the statutory age of 21." Further on, the same writer says that, after hereditary transmission, there is probably no cause of insanity which exercises so potent an influence as alcoholic drinking.

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SOME EXPERIENCES WITH THYROID FEEDING.—Dr. Leo. Stieglitz, of New York (*N. Y. Medical Journal*, May 4th), reports four cases where he had employed thyroid extract. (1) This was a marked case of myxœdema. She was ordered gr. v. of Parke, Davis & Co.'s desiccated thyroid extract daily for first week, then twice a day for