

parents, is liable to be intensified in the offspring. It is on this account that marriages between blood relations are unadvisable, inasmuch as latent morbid tendencies, should they form part of the organic constitution of the family are almost certain to become developed in the children. It is almost patent in England, that the cause of the scrofulous tendency and insanity in the Royal family in the last generation was attributable to the continual alliance with their German relations. I think there is no doubt that consanguinity in marriage is a ground from which so much of our Insanity arises.

The causes of Deterioration and Disease may be classified according to Dr. Wilson, under two heads, viz., "Social" and "Material." The latter are to be treated by legislative enactments, so that we shall content ourselves for the present with the "Social" causes of Deterioration. The state is almost powerless to control these, although some little may be accomplished. But the greater part must be remedied by constant animadversion through the Press, the Pulpit and the Platform, as well as general instructions to family circles and schools by the Physician, the Minister and Journalist, or any other philanthropic person who will carry due weight with them. Intemperance, for instance, begins slowly and insidiously to undermine the general health of a man, and the habit becomes confirmed by an habitual and excessive use of alcoholic liquors. Its effects slowly develop themselves upon the digestion, then follows the impairment of the physical powers generally, then the nervous system is undermined, and nervous exhaustion ensues, evidenced by the tottering steps, the tremulous hand, and twitching of the muscles, and this followed by the mind and will becoming so enfeebled that they are powerless to resist the cravings of this morbid appetite and the drunkard becomes a veritable dipsomaniac, only fit for an asylum. But if these afflictions were to end here we might possibly satisfy our consciences with the knowledge