

of the talkative maniac?" A bad habit or the dominance of an unfortunate predilection may disturb the balance of an otherwise healthy mind as effectually as the touch of a magnet on the balance wheel of an exquisite watch will impede its regular motion.

A VARIETY OF MOODS are caused by food alone! An old adage has it that, "he who drinks beer thinks beer." A hungry man can scarcely be termed quite sane in comparison with one who is comfortably digesting a good dinner. A disordered liver has made many a one think he has "sinned the unpardonable sin," and driven many to self-destruction. "The accursed hag dyspepsia," as Carlyle has put it, has been also prolific of suicides as well as responsible for a good deal of the gloomy theology of the past. The lesson to be learned, as the Journal says, is the importance of a firm will-control! "If our mental states are so often caused by pathological conditions, it is no less true that the mind can control the body; and the man or woman who, in popular phraseology, "gives way" to his moods, runs imminent risk of becoming their slave."

A SPECIAL SERVICE was held in the old parish church of Leeds during the recent annual meeting there of the British Medical Association and Dr. Boyd Carpenter, the Bishop of Ripon, preached the sermon, taking his text from the Gospel of St. Mark (viii. 1, 2), "Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them: I have compassion on the multitude," he drew a striking parallel between the work and aims of divinity and medicine. The fundamental aim was the same, and both professions, actuated by a deep sense of compassion for the sufferings of humanity, were ranged under one banner. The chaplain and the surgeon had fought together at Rorke's Drift, and if divinity could boast a Father Damien, medicine might be not less proud of men who risked their lives in the hope of restoring the power of breathing in a child who had been operated on for diphtheria. He recalled some of the triumphs of medicine, the disappearance of ague from whole nations, the enormous diminution of mortality and paid a remarkable tribute to the achievements of sanitary workers.

AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION to our knowledge of the special poison of diphtheria was given in the June number of the Annals de

l'Institut Pasteur, a translation of which we find in "Public Health," the organ of the Minnesota State Board of Health. The first conclusion is, "The bacillus discovered by Klebs in the false membrane, and isolated, afterward, by Loeffler, is the cause of diphtheria." Another very important conclusion is that, "The bacillus of diphtheria does not multiply in the organs of the body, but is found only at the point of inoculation, and disappears entirely if the disease be prolonged. Diphtheria is, therefore, an intoxication caused by a very active poison formed by the microbe in the limited place where it grows." The authors give as proof of this statement, their demonstration, by repeated experiment, that in pure cultures of the diphtheritic bacillus, there exists a special chemical substance which, injected under the skin of animals, gives them the disease, in the absence of any living microbe. A sufficient dose produces a rapid intoxication, with all the symptoms and the lesions which follow the inoculation of the bacillus itself except that the false membrane is not produced. Acids and heat rendered the poison much less active.

THE DIPHTHERITIC POISON is intensely virulent. Fifteen drops of a filtered culture, when dried, left a residue weighing 0.154 of a grain. Deducting from this the weight of the ash and the portion soluble in alcohol, neither of which are poisonous, there remains but the .006 of a grain and the most of this is made up of other substances than the diphtheric poison. This infinitely small dose is sufficient to kill at least eight guinea pigs, or two rabbits, and injected into the blood of a dog, it would make him very sick for a long time, if it did not kill him. But this poison, so fatal if introduced under the skin, may be eaten in large quantities by the same animals with impunity.

THE PAPER CONCLUDES in these words: "It is very difficult to accustom animals to this poison, because of its activity. Even in very feeble doses it produces effects which are very enduring. It is because of this energetic toxic power that we ought to prevent the formation of false membranes in the sufferers from the disease. If you allow the bacillus time to produce a sufficient dose of the poison, it will be of no use to destroy the croupal membrane or the bacillus itself, death will be caused by poisoning; for in diphtheria, contrary to what occurs in many