

I think I am warranted in regarding this unwonted manifestation of insane propensity as an epidemic visitation; at all events, I trust it will prove exceptional. The malady has presented itself under strongly marked religious complexion; yet it has differed from the sporadic suicidal insanity of other years, in the fact that it has shown no incidental partiality. It has neither known distinction of creed nor of nationality; and although the religious delirium, or delusions, associated with it, may have found expression in diversified phraseology, yet the generic underlying mental error has been the same in all. They all believed they had committed unpardonable sin.

The disease prevailed chiefly throughout the summer months. In the four months preceding May, only 9 cases were received; and in the three since September, only 7 have come in. In the other 5 months the number amounted to 57.

Insanity, developed by the excitement, which, in this country, accompanies religious commotions, or as they are usually termed, *revivals*, has been a malady with which I have had some acquaintance. It certainly is both troublesome and distressing; yet how willingly would I, last year, have made exchange. One case of suicidal religious despair, causes more dread, and requires more watching, than a score of the high-pressure revival cases. Looking calmly back on the terrible period through which we have passed, and endeavoring to reach some solution of the question as to the cause of the epidemic, I feel inclined to the opinion, that notwithstanding all that has been said and written against religious commotions, and notwithstanding the apprehension with which, in common with all asylum physicians, I regard their invasion, they are wants of our religious nature,

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