

There are some difficulties in the way of accepting these views, the most formidable of these being, perhaps, the unilateral character of the headache, which is contrary to what is usually found in toxic conditions. The strong association existing between epilepsy and hemicrania should also be borne in mind, with the undoubtedly hereditary character of these diseases. Should it be decided to give this method of treatment a trial (and Dr. Herter's very brilliant results certainly justify this), it would be well to approach the subject of washing out the stomach during an interval between the attacks, and not to startle a nervous patient during a paroxysm by suddenly suggesting what, to the lay mind, might appear to be a somewhat formidable and highly unpleasant operation."—*Treatment.*

DIABETES A DISEASE OF HIGH CIVILIZATION.

Thoughtful men long ago reached the conclusion that the conditions of life afforded by what is termed "high civilization" are not conducive to health, but, on the contrary, tend to physical deterioration. The class statistics of death from diabetes mellitus show this very clearly; for example, according to Saundby, the rate of mortality from diabetes has risen, in Paris, within the last ten years, from an average of eight in each 100,000 population to an average of thirteen; while in Copenhagen it has risen from five to eight; and in England and Wales it has increased in fourteen years seventy per cent., after allowing for the increased population.

Bertillon, a leading physician of Paris, has shown that, while this is true of all classes of persons, the increase is much more pronounced among the wealthy classes than among the poor, the average in the poorer parts of the city being only seven to nine in 100,000, while in the wealthy quarters the average is sixteen to twenty.

Recent investigations by Marie and others show that the old idea that the liver is usually healthy in diabetes is an error, and that, on the contrary, it is generally the seat of interstitial hepatitis. Accumulating facts point more and more directly to the idea that diabetes is, like most other chronic disorders, the result of vicious habits of life, and probably chiefly dependent upon errors in diet. The liver is a long-suffering organ, and seldom undergoes derangement of any sort except from abuses heaped upon it through dietetic errors, its relations with the digestive tract being such that it is compelled to perform an immense amount of unnecessary labor as the result of any disturbance of digestion which impairs the integrity of the digestive process.