

THE Hygienic Uses of the Imagination, was the subject of Sir J. Crichton Browne's Address in Psychology at the last months annual meeting of the British Medical Association, and the Journal says, will be long remembered one of the great features of the meeting. No narrow local habitation in the brain has yet been assigned to this noblest attribute of man, the imagination. "Imagination is the air of mind," and as Napoleon said, "it rules the world." This strange yet simple gift was as nearly localised by Shakespeare as it is ever likely to be when he said its forms and shapes "are begot in the ventricle of memory, nourished in the womb of *pia mater*, and delivered upon the mellowing of occasion." We have progressed no further than that, with all our knowledge.

THE MICROSCOPE and the scalpel teach the doctor so much that the novice looks to his tools to do more for him than they ever can do. "The tendency of his studies," says Sir J. Crichton Browne, "is among the less reflective to encourage a materialistic philosophy, and to give a kind of sanction to the notion that mind is merely brain function." But mind is "not a mere exhalation of brain matter," nor is brain a sort of "solidification of mind." Materialism is a logical error founded on a fundamental blunder; but natural enough, perhaps, in a young man intoxicated with the wonders revealed to him by his first acquaintance with the working of this intricate machine of the most elaborate construction; which however, no more thinks than the eye sees or the ear hears.

WE KNOW how often—and Sir J. Crichton Browne laid great stress on the fact—poverty in mental resource, like general mal-nutrition, actually invites disease. By the cultivation of the imagination the treasures hidden in the intricacies of the brain are laid under contribution, and "a flash of intuitive preception brings them into harmony and combines them by a synthesis which displays an energy more than the sum of the respective forces of the ideas themselves." With this energy we can combat morbid suggestions, distract our minds, and look beyond the moment. To be possessed of it is to have the noblest form of health, a mental wholeness which is the consequence of singling out of our mental acquisitions predestined elements which in combination make the sound mind.

OF THE moral causes of insanity during the ten years 1878-87, domestic trouble, adverse circumstances and mental anxiety are answerable, according to the report of the Lunacy Commissioners, for sending some 27,000 cases into English

asylums. It is an inference warranted by observation that a very large proportion of such cases lose their balance for want of the support which the resources of a well-stored mind un-faillingly afford.

It is the mynd that maketh good or ill,  
That maketh wretch or happie, rich or poor.

ON THE BROWN-SEQUARD injections, a great many competent observers have been experimenting and the conclusion which they have almost unanimously come to is that the injection of a very small quantity of spermatic fluid under the skin, so that it may be absorbed, will act as a prompt and pleasant stimulant. Its effects, however, are only temporary and transitory, and the wild hope that it was the Elixir of Life at last has been dashed to the ground.

BROWN-SEQUARD'S discovery, however, is not without value, for, as the Canada Medical Record says, it teaches the moral that if we would possess the vital fluid in our old age we must not recklessly squander it in our youth. But this has been long known.

TYROTOXICAN, a mischief-maker in milk, according to Prof. Vaughan, does not develop below 60° Fahr., and is anaerobic—grows when air is excluded, so says the Popular Science Monthly. Some very simple measures, then, are preventive: 1. Scrupulous cleanliness. A little dry milk on the rim of a can or vessel may breed the germ which will find a culture-ground in fresh milk: 2. A low temperature—below 60° Fahr. 3. Ventilation in an untainted atmosphere. These precautions are generally observed by careful dairymen and cream manufacturers. There is grave reason to fear, however, that they are not generally observed after the milk reaches the consumer's hands. Also, the slightest carelessness may effect seriously that class of the community which does not speak for itself—the dear little innocents.

VACCINE VIRUS from cultivation has been substituted by a Russian physician for ordinary vaccine lymph, which is said to be as effective as the latter, and of course free from the danger of syphilis, tuberculosis and other constitutional diseases.

TO PRESERVE ICE in the sick room, put it in a bag, and then in a box containing enough chaff to cover it five or six inches deep. It can thus be preserved for several days.

FROM Bordeaux U. S. Consul Gifford warns the American public to beware of French liquors, especially brandy, because no pure French brandy is sent hither.