

it. I concluded that if this was an opium delusion, she would have another attack, so the decision was postponed. Ten weeks later, she asserted that the same physician had visited her room at midnight and assaulted her the second time. The physician at the time was on the ocean with his wife, going to Bermuda, having sailed two days before the alleged act was committed. This woman was declared an opium-eater and went under treatment, from which she recovered, and no return of this delusion followed.

Fortunately these delusions are not very common, and are so often mixed up with circumstances that indicate their real condition as not to be mistaken.

PSYCHICAL HISTORY OF THE DRINK PROBLEM.

We have repeatedly called attention to a certain class of facts, which seem to prove that inebriety and the consumption of alcohol have a peculiar wave-like movement, rising and falling like the action of the tides, under the influence of certain psychical laws unknown at present. The prevalence of inebriety in small circles, where the history has been recorded for some years, brings out this fact in many ways. The following editorial from the *Temperance Record* indicates the same general fact in relation to the consumption of various alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Its significance and value in a study of this very remarkable field cannot be over estimated.

Sir Frederick Hunt, in a motion before the British Parliament, "showed the consumption from 1861 up to the latest date, of tea, coffee, cocoa, and chicory, of alcoholic beverages, and of tobacco, compared with the increase of population," has just been issued, and is a most interesting study. The line on the diagrams showing the consumption of non-alcoholic beverages is almost uninterrupted upward. In 1861 the consumption of non-alcoholic beverages (tea, coffee, cocoa, and chicory) was 127,000,000 lbs. In 1862 it fell to

119,000,000 lbs. From 1862 there is a regular ascent till 1867, when the consumption was 159,000,000 lbs. In the following year there was a drop to 153,000,000 lbs., and thence a regular ascent till in 1879 it was 217,000,000 lbs. Next year it was 214,000,000 lbs., and then followed a gradual ascent till 241,000,000 lbs. was reached in 1885. A temporary drop of 4,000,000 lbs. was followed by a rise to 246,000,000 lbs. in 1888. A drop of 3,000,000 lbs. next year was followed by a rise to 267,000,000 lbs. in 1892, and then came a drop of 1,000,000 lbs. in 1893, the last year included in the return. Between the highest and lowest figures embraced in the return, the increase is shown to be 224 per cent. Per head of the population the increase is from 4.06 lbs. to 6.99 lbs.

On looking at the diagram which shows the consumption of tea, coffee, and cocoa separately, it is seen that by far the greatest increase has been in tea. In 1861 the tea consumed per head of the population was $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.; in 1893 it was about $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.—as nearly as possible double. In 1861 the consumption of cocoa was less than 3 oz. per head; in 1893 it was 9 oz. Coffee, in 1861, was consumed at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per head of the population; in 1893 it had fallen to 11 oz.

Turning to the diagrams which show the consumption of alcoholic liquors, let us look first at beer. In 1861 the consumption was 20,000,000 barrels, and in 1876 it had risen to 31,000,000 barrels. The lowest consumption after that was in 1880, when 26,000,000 barrels were consumed; and about that figure the consumption continued till 1888, when a rise commenced, which attained its greatest height in 1891, when the consumption was 32,000,000 barrels. In 1893 it was only a little less. The diagram showing the consumption per head of population tells us that in 1861 it was $24\frac{1}{4}$ gallons. In 1874 it had risen to $33\frac{3}{4}$ gallons; in 1886 it had fallen to $26\frac{3}{4}$ gallons; in 1891 it was 30 gallons; and in 1893 it was $29\frac{1}{2}$ gallons.

The diagram showing the consumption of British and foreign spirits and wines tells us that in 1861 it amounted to

35,000,000 gallons, and there was an almost steady rise until 1876, when it amounted to 60,000,000 gallons. From that year there was an almost equally steady decline, until in 1886 it had got to 47,000,000 gallons. Again there was a rise, until in 1891 and 1892 it reached 54,000,000 gallons, and in 1893 it had declined to 51,000,000 gallons. The consumption per head of the population in 1861 was 1.22 gallons, in 1876 it was 1.80 gallons, in 1886 it was 1.30 gallons, in 1891 it was 1.42 gallons, and in 1893 it was 1.35 gallons.

Turning to the diagrams which indicate separately the consumption of rum, brandy, and Geneva and other foreign spirits, we find that in 1861 the consumption of rum was 3,500,000 gallons, or 0.18 gallons per head of the population. In 1867 it had risen to 4,300,000 gallons, or 0.28 gallons per head. In 1875, with fluctuations in the interval, it had risen to 5,400,000 gallons, or 0.36 gallons per head of the population. From this year there was a pretty steady decline till 1886, when it was 3,800,000 gallons, or 0.23 gallons per head; and then came a rise until 1890, when it was 4,600,000 gallons, or 0.24 gallons per head. In 1893 it had fallen to 3,800,000 gallons, or 0.20 gallons per head.

The consumption of brandy followed pretty much the same course as rum, rising from 1,500,000 gallons in 1861 to 4,500,000 gallons in 1876, and falling to 2,500,000 gallons in 1888, subsequently rising to 2,700,000 gallons in 1891, from which there was a slight reduction in 1893. Geneva and other foreign spirits (except rum and brandy) had a consumption of 250,000 gallons in 1861, and rose to 1,200,000 gallons in 1868, and in 1875 to 2,000,000 gallons. In 1880 the consumption had dropped to 600,000 gallons, and in 1889 it had again risen to 2,000,000 gallons, and in 1893 it was 1,500,000 gallons.

The diagram showing the consumption of wine gives lines indicating the fluctuations in the consumption of French, Spanish, and Portuguese wines, and then of wines other than French, Spanish, and Portuguese. In 1861 the consumption of French wines was 2,200,000 gallons, and it

rose to 4,500,000 gallons in 1868, and to 6,800,000 in 1876. From that time there have been fluctuations, mostly downward, and in 1893 the consumption was 5,500,000 gallons. Spanish wines were consumed to the extent of 4,000,000 gallons in 1861, and the consumption rose to 7,000,000 gallons in 1873. From that year there has been a pretty steady decline, and in 1893 the consumption was 3,100,000 gallons. The wines of Portugal were consumed in 1861 to the extent of 2,600,000 gallons, and in 1875 the consumption had risen to 3,900,000 gallons. A decline followed that year, and for several years the consumption was very steady at about 2,900,000 gallons. It rose again to 3,700,000 gallons in 1890 and 1892, and in 1893 was 3,500,000 gallons. The other wines have been very steady during the thirty-three years embraced in the return, ranging from 1,500,000 to 2,100,000 gallons.

The diagrams which show the consumption, per head, of British and foreign spirits, separately from foreign wines, show that in 1861 the consumption of spirits was nearly 7 pints per head, and it rose to $10\frac{1}{2}$ pints in 1875; fell in 1887 and 1888 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ pints; rose in 1891 and 1892 to nearly $8\frac{1}{2}$ pints; and in 1893 was under 8 pints. In 1861 foreign wines were consumed at the rate of 3 pints per head; in 1873 and 1876 the consumption was $4\frac{1}{2}$ pints; in 1886 and 1888 it was just under 3 pints, and so it stood in 1893.

The diagram referring to tobacco shows an almost steady rise in consumption from 35,000,000 lbs. in 1861 to 63,000,000 lbs. in 1893. These figures tell us that the consumption per head was $19\frac{1}{4}$ oz. in 1861, and 26 oz. in 1893.

[A striking confirmatory fact has just been made public in the Internal Revenue Report of this country, ending in June, 1894. This shows a reduction in the amount of spirits, wines, and malt liquors on which a revenue was paid of over ten million five hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars for the year of 1893. A reaction backward has clearly begun.—ED.]

STRYCHNINE DELIRIUM.

Those members of the medical profession who have employed caffeine very largely in the treatment of cardiac and renal disease, have recognized that large doses of this drug, continuously administered for a considerable period, developed in certain individuals what has been popularly called "caffeine craziness." In other words, the full medicinal doses required by the condition of the heart or kidneys have also been sufficiently large not only to produce an increased activity of the brain, such as is seen when coffee is taken in large amounts, but also have gone farther than this, and by the very cerebral stimulation produced temporary insanity. Within the last few years the medical profession has been employing in certain states what may be considered as massive doses of strychnine in the treatment of failing respiration or circulation, and has obtained therefrom very good results. It having been found that these full doses of strychnine acted favorably when given in an emergency, we have been tempted to continue their administration where the symptoms were relieved but temporarily, and, as a result, have oftentimes been pleased with their effect. On the other hand, a sufficient number of cases have been seen in which cerebral disturbance has followed these large doses to put us continually on the lookout for such untoward symptoms. As a rule, he who administers large doses of strychnine in an emergency is on the *qui vive* for some twitching of the muscles of the forearm or other portion of the body as an evidence of the physiological action of the drug. While we believe that these symptoms are commonly produced by a single administration of the remedy, we are also confident that its continued administration in full doses frequently fails to produce these evidences of heightened reflex activity, and in their place causes a more or less active delirium, in which the patient frequently refuses to take his medicine, or develops the delusion that his attendants are conspiring to poison him or do him some other injury.

The above editorial note in the *Theoretical Gazette* calls attention to a fact not often recognized. In cases of inebriety who have been drugged freely, particularly in those who have received strychnine, low deliriums and imbecilities are common. Remove all drugs and pursue the eliminative plan of treatment and these symptoms disappear.

THE SAN FRANCISCO HOME FOR INEBRIATES.

This well-known asylum has recently been assailed by a leading daily paper, the principal reason being the refusal of the board of trustees to pay two hundred dollars for a column of praise. It appears that various gold-cure establishments had fallen victims to this paper scheme, and paid liberally for an extravagant "write-up" they received. The refusal of this institution to buy the commendation of the public was followed by wild charges of abuses and wrongs, and appeals to the grand jury to investigate them. After a series of savage onslaughts and vindictive efforts to gather evidence against them, the grand jury found no cause of action, and the paper, of course, had the last word, and made the usual unpleasant ending to the scene. The gold cure schemers were clearly at the bottom of the trouble. While the charges of the paper were childishly assumptive, and showed very little knowledge of human nature and sad lack of business sense, the managers of the asylum failed to take advantage of this splendid opportunity to enlist the sympathies of the people. Attacks of this kind on strong, reputable asylums are welcomed by sharp business managers as magnificent advertisements that can be turned into gold and golden influences at once.

This Home has been before the public thirty years, and has been managed by very able men. The present Superintendent, Dr. Potter, is a well-known writer and teacher of medicine, and his management of this Home has commanded the respect of medical men all over the country. Asylums like this should never pray to be delivered from their enemies, but for an occasional battle with them, so they can keep right before the public and have a lively, healthy interest all the time.

MANY criminal inebriates suffer from sense delusions and hallucinations. They act from misconceptions and errors of the senses, which to them seem real. They are unable to correct these false impressions, or to judge of their value, but act at once as if they were real and true.

Aural hallucinations of voices, threatening and violent words, have caused many fatal assaults that were sudden and unprovoked. Visual hallucinations have provoked similar assaults, committed in supposed self-defense, and other unexplained acts are often traced to the same disturbances of the sense impressions.

THE Keeley gold-cure people are concentrating an immense amount of energy to secure laws in different States, giving judges power to commit chronic pauper inebriates to Keeley institutes at the expense of the tax-payers. The other gold-cure discoverers, who claim that they have better remedies than Keeley, oppose these bills. In many of the public hearings before the legislative committees, the question of which specific has cured the largest number of inebriates is discussed with great freedom and positiveness. From the statements on both sides, it is evident that Munchausen has been carefully studied, and his famous methods of expression copied with exactness.

Notwithstanding these peculiarities, the general subject of the public treatment of inebriates is receiving prominence and eliciting discussion that will clear away the heavy fog-banks of superstition which now invest it.

HABITUAL MISCARRIAGE.

R. Reece, M. R. C. S. Eng., 1851, L. S. A., 1832, Walton-on-Thames, England, says: I used Aletris cordial in a case of painful menstruation. It was most valuable. The wife of a minister suffered much and had had three miscarriages. Prescribed Aletris Cordial. She has, for the first time, gone her full time, and was safely confined with a male child. I also prescribed it to a relative, suffering with leucorrhœa for years. Great relief from pain, and the discharge much less. In the first case related it was truly a God-send to her.

DR. CHARLES HENRY BROWN of New York, editor of the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, says: "Maltine with coca wine has served me well in cases of neurasthenia from any cause. It serves as a most excellent sustainer and bracer. Besides these two essential qualities, we are forced to believe in another element in this combination, and that is the sedative quality, which makes it a most valuable therapeutic desideratum. It does not seem to me that this action depends entirely upon the coca, or the coca in combination with wine. My conviction is, that the maltine plays a leading part in this triple alliance" — *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, Dec. 22, 1894.

Clinical Notes and Comments.

DR. CHAUNCEY STEWART of Allegheny City, Pa., has used Iodia very extensively in his practice, and regards it as the "Ideal alterative—the *sine qua non* in the treatment of syphilis, scrofula, and all diseases arising from syphilitic contamination or a strumous diathesis. Iodia has this advantage over mercurial treatment in syphilis: when the patient does get well he is well. He is not tortured with mercurial rheumatism nor made to blush through the syphilitic blossoming of his face in after years. He is well. Unlike the long-continued use of other alteratives, Iodia does not reduce and debilitate the constitution, but invigorates and restores the vital power and enable the patient at all times to continue in the discharge of his vocation."

At this season of the year, when radical and sudden thermal changes are the rule, it becomes of vital interest to the busy practitioner to have in compact, ready form, such approved medicaments as meet the analgesic and antithermic requirements of the bulk of his patients. As pertinent we call attention to the following combination tablets: "Antikamnia and codeine," each containing $4\frac{3}{4}$ gr. antikamnia and $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. codeine, "antikamnia and quinine," each containing $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr. antikamnia and $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr. quinine, "antikamnia and salol," each containing $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr. antikamnia and $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr. salol, and "antikamnia, quinine, and salol," each containing 2 gr. antikamnia, 2 gr. quinine, and 1 gr. salol. These together with the well-known "antikamnia tablets," of varied sizes, and "antikamnia powdered," constitute indispensable factors in the armamentarium of the physician, and are more than ordinarily indicated in present climatic conditions.

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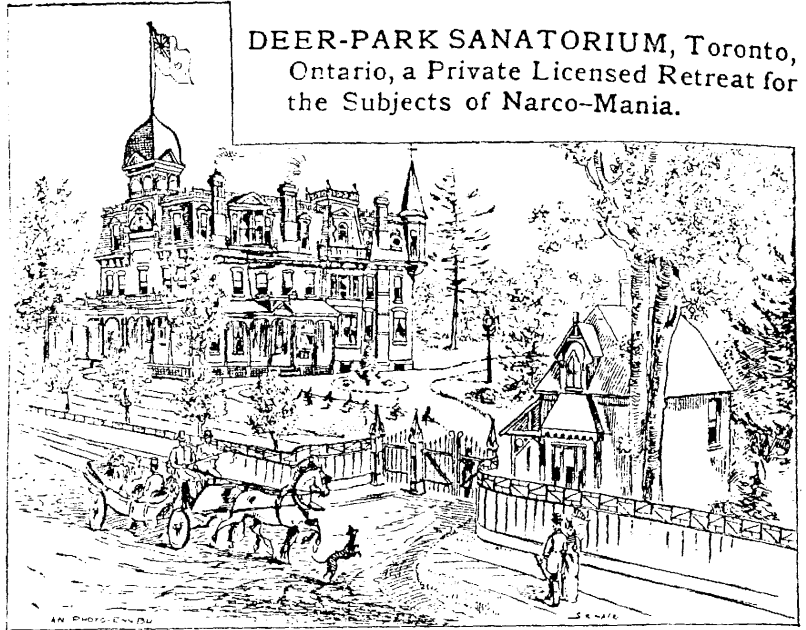
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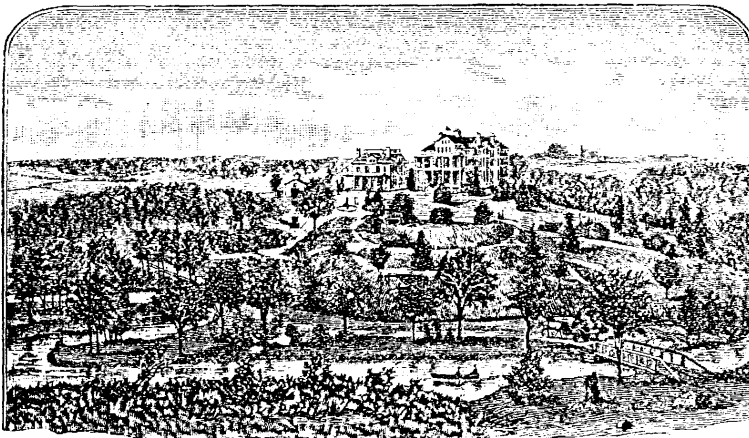
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