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THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL

OF

INEBRIETY.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY AND CURE OF INEBRIATES.

T. D. CROTHERS, M.D., Editor,

36 State Street,

HARTFORD, CONN.

Vol. XXI.

OCTOBER, 1899

No. 4

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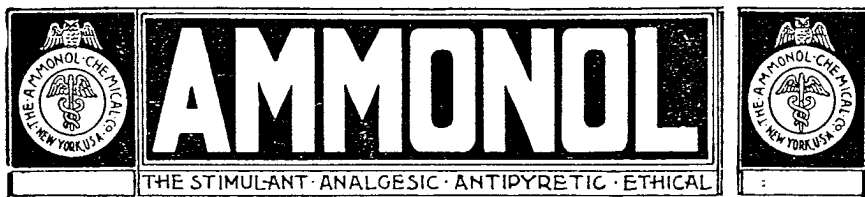
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Vol. XXI.

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This Journal will not be responsible for the opinions of contributors, unless indorsed by the Association.

A NOTE ON THE INFLUENCE OF MATERNAL INEBRIETY ON THE OFFSPRING.

By W. C. SULLIVAN, M.D.,

Deputy Medical Officer, H. M. Convict Prison, Parkhurst, England.

The object of the following paper is to present the result of a number of observations touching certain aspects of the question of habitual inebriety, notably the *rôle* of maternal alcoholism as an agent in race degeneracy.

It has been observed by most authorities who have studied the various classes of individuals characterized by their incapacity to adapt themselves to normal social conditions, that these classes are largely recruited from the offspring of the alcoholic. This holds true whether that incapacity depends on the most glaring states of organic degeneracy, such as idiocy, or on those slighter forms of mental inferiority which appear to exist in at least a considerable proportion of habitual criminals and prostitutes.

Thus, to quote a few of the more recent observations on this point, alcoholic parentage was noted by Bourneville in 62

