tion. All the joys and sweet memories of fairy tales are but a beggarly compensation to a large class of sensitive children who, with the fairy tales unavoidably acquire a belief in the reality of ghosts and hobgoblins, and are for years nightly terrified by thoughts of them. It is no reply to this contention that it is unfair to deprive the child of imagination; nobody ever succeeded in doing this and probably nobody ever will, nor is it desirable to. But let him build up his own imaginative world out of the actualities of his environment and of himself, and he will come to mature years with a maturer and more wholesome and promising mind. Many a boy left to himself in these matters has evolved so much of the philosophy of life that, when, later, he reads Plato and Socrates and Emerson, he seems to be repeatedly confronting the children of his own brain.

Nor does this plea deserve the censure that it would deprive child life of its pleasures. It looks far away from such a calamity. But there are pleasures and pleasures, and the circus and spectacular performance do not furnish the kind of enjoyment that is most lasting or permanently satisfying to a normal child. They wear him out and give him troubled dreams and make him sick. No parent would think of daily sending a child into such excitement. The fatuous sin of modern, evolved and cultivated society is that it is doing its utmost to give its children the same character of excitement, only under different color and in a lesser degree, and not far from six days every week, and then wondering that we have among us a growing army of worn-out children, neurasthenics and emotional invalids.

Los Angeles.

INEBRIETY AND IMBECILITY—A MEDICO-LEGAL STUDY.

Read before the Association for the Study and Cure of Inebriety, at the Annual Meeting in New York City, Jan. 4, 1895.

BY T. D. CROTHERS, M.D.

SUPERINTENDENT WALNUT LODGE HOSPITAL, ETC., ETC., HARTFORD, CONN.

The following records of two cases bring into prominence again the old conception of inebriety, and the recent modern view accepted by the more intelligent courts and jurors.

In March, 1894, John Cronin was tried and convicted for the murder of Albert Skinner.

"The facts relating to his crime are these: He was a farm laborer 37 years old, living about Hartford. He has been a periodic drinker since early life, and when sober is a quiet peaceable man; when drinking is excitable, irritable, abusive and often quarrelsome. He has been arrested and confined in jail twice for intoxication. His drink periods have been growing longer and the sober intervals shorter for the past few years. He has been growing more irritable and stupid when drunk lately.

"For at least two weeks before the murder he was idle and drank continuously. He was intoxicated on the night before the murder. A few weeks before this time he had a drunken altercation with the man he shot and at that time made a threat to shoot him. Amicable relations were re-established and he seemed to be on good terms with the man, with whom he had formerly boarded and been very intimate.

"On the morning of Oct. 6, 1893, he went to the house of this man, Albert Skinner, and without a word of provocation shot him at the breakfast table. He was pushed and thrown out of the house twice in

a few minutes and stood round on the street near the house with a revolver in his pocket, making no attempt to shoot again and coolly boasting of what he had done. He submitted to restraint and expressed a wish to shoot others also, justifying himself and affirming that he was ready to accept the consequences, and be hung, and if he was permitted would kill others. These expressions of regret that he had not shot more persons were repeated several times.

"He was recognized as having been drinking by his breath and strange actions, but several witnesses thought he was fully conscious of his acts and their consequences.

"For the next two days all the witnesses seem to agree that he was in a semi-dazed condition of mind, indifferent to all surroundings and would not talk. After this his manner changed and he responded to inquiries and conversed, claiming not to recollect any of the past occurrences, and the crime. He said that Skinner, the murdered man, was the best friend he ever had."

This crime was characterized by two very unusual lines of conduct:

1. Shooting the man in open day in his own home, without a word of provocation, boldly and under the possible observation of many persons. Firing only one shot and standing round to see the result, being pushed out of the door by the wife of the murdered man, and going back into the house again, was thrown out by the son; also making no attempt to shoot other persons or run away.

2. Offering no resistance when the pistol was taken from him, submitting to arrest, acknowledging the crime and in violent language expressing a desire to repeat the act on the murdered man and others, and take the consequences. His cool indifference, and violent expressions unaccompanied by acts, or delirious excitement seemed to those about him not to indicate drunkenness, although his breath was strong with the odor of spirits and his manner was strange and unusual.

Thirteen months after the commission of the crime I examined him in the State Prison. During all these months he has been free from spirits, and it would be natural to expect that his condition of body and mind would be very near normal.

His appearance was that of a short, stout-built man, with a small irregular shaped head, retreating forehead, sunken tremulous eyes, large stigmatic ears and high palate arch. He walked with a shuffling unsteady gait, and when seated, supported his head on his hands, and seldom looked up. He answered questions slowly and with hesitation and seemed in doubt unless the questions were direct and repeated. The answers began in a natural tone of voice and dropped down to a whisper at the close of the sentence. This hesitation and doubt differed widely from the cunning reserve of one who would conceal his mental operations, in the apparent feebleness and effort to give some answer and overcome an aversion and incapacity for sustained reason or explanation of any event. The impression given was that of a naturally defective brain, already approaching and evidently in the penumbra region of imbecility.

He appeared in fair health and without delusions and profoundly indifferent to any past, present or future conditions. As a result of persistent questioning the following facts were brought out, most of which have been confirmed from other sources, hence they are

generally correct: He was intoxicated at about 15 years of age, and has used spirits continuously and at times to great excess up to the present. He both drinks alone and in company, and when intoxicated has little or no recollection of what he does or says. His memory has never been good. At times he can recall events when drinking, at others they are a blank. Concerning the homicide he has no recollection of it; the blank of memory extends from the night before the crime, to some time after being placed in jail.

He can not understand why he should have shot Skinner as he was his best friend. He gave the history of a fall on his head with a period of unconsciousness and a scar showing a scalp wound was exhibited as evidence of it.

Three years ago he was made unconscious by a fall from a railroad train and laid up with injuries of the back and knee for two months. He has been struck on the head several times when drinking and made unconscious. For the past few years when drinking he has been more irritable and quarrelsome and been told that he was crazy at those times. He makes no complaint against any one, and expresses no sorrow or indignation at anything concerning the crime or trial. He is strangely indifferent concerning his life, and would not escape if he could but is ready to die at any time. It makes no difference to him what the result may be.

Concerning the future he has been told that by repentance one can go to heaven; if this is a mistake he will accept the situation. His wishes are of no account as 'the Lord and the law will have their own way.' No questions of his moral responsibility and guilt in this crime, excite any emotion or nervousness, or apparent realization of his condition. He expresses himself coolly and with utter unconcern. At times a half imbecile smile would appear, when he could not answer the question, and did not know what to say. There was no irritation or excitement or depression or annoyance from questions which were pressed, and if different answers were suggested he would select the briefest one.

When the same question was put in a different form, he seemed not to realize it but answered in monosyllables, irrespective of any previous answer. In all this there was no criminal cunning or attempt to conceal or to appear crazy, but clearly the natural working of a feeble and imbecile mind. He seemed to have a remarkably abnormal brain, in which all the higher functions were paralyzed, and the normal consciousness of duty and responsibility were absent.

A study of the heredity of this case was startling.

The near relatives on both his father's and mother's side were hard drinkers, and on his mother's side insanity and epilepsy appear frequently. None of his relatives exhibited anything more than a very low order of intelligence.

His maternal grandparents were William and Mary Callahan, of Country Antrim, Ireland. William died in middle life and Mary lived to be 60 years old, and was insane for some years before her death. Catherine, the eldest daughter, the aunt of John Cronin, became insane from the death of her child and the desertion of her husband, recovering in part and coming to this country, where she died in middle life. Michael, the second child, was early addicted to drinking intoxicants, and his mother tried to kill the appetite by mixing snuff with his drinks. He en-

listed in the English army, was discharged insane and wandered about in the woods and finally died of exposure. Thomas Callahan, the second son, lives in Hartford and is a respectable man. He drank until he was 50 years of age, since which time he abandoned the habit. He testified as to the facts of his nephew's ancestry before the Board of Pardons, and appeared to be a quiet man, "thick" in his memory, and in the appreciation of what the counsel was trying to bring out.

Margaret Callahan, the youngest child of William and Mary, and the mother of John Cronin, was a nervous excitable girl, who went to Wales with her older sister, Catherine. There she married Peter Cronin, a Welsh miner, of a boisterous nature and a man who drank to excess. His wife drank with him daily and they lived in a state of perpetual trouble. At last Peter was murdered in a drunken row and Margaret became insane for a time. Her sister Catherine took her home and adopted John Cronin, who was 1 year old at the time. He lived with his aunt until he was 8 years old, when he was put out to work.

His mother, Margaret, came to this country and married a man named Moran, who is now dead. There were three children by this marriage, one dying in early life and two daughters surviving. One of these, Mrs. George Somers, is subject to epileptic fits, is a hard drinker, and has attempted suicide. She has been in the county jail in this city for drunkenness.

Margaret Moran, the mother of John Cronin, is well known to the authorities of Hartford. She has been a drinking, troublesome woman during her long residence in and about Hartford and was surrendered to the authorities by her brother, Thomas Callahan, after he had endured her boisterous and wild ways, while under the influence of drink, as long as he could. She is now an inmate of the almshouse in this town, where she has been for nearly five years.

This brief sketch of Cronin's ancestry shows that his father and mother were both inebriates, an uncle and aunt were insane, and a half sister is a drinking, epileptic degenerate. Of the direct stock of his father, John Cronin, was the last, and of his mother the worst descendant.

In these facts a very clear history can be traced of what is well known as alcoholic insanity of the imbecile and epileptic class, the prominent symptoms of which are a marked degenerating heredity, usually from an alcoholic, insane or idiotic ancestry, or practically from a dying family, where the race stock is exhausted, enfeebled and approaching extinction. Alcoholism in such a family is a symptom of progressive degeneration. The drinking is always followed by insane, epileptic and impulsive conduct. When not drinking, apparent sanity and normal conduct may be the rule, but the strain of alcohol on a defective brain will bring on homicide, suicide or epileptic explosions. The use of alcohol is always followed by delirious conditions, delusions and strange unusual acts.

Failures of memory are common symptoms, and may be total or partial. After a time a progressive palsy of the higher brain functions appears. In most of these hereditary defects this moral palsy and loss of consciousness of right and wrong, of duty and obligation, is an inheritance which the use of alcohol develops. All such cases show this strange indifference and unconsciousness of their acts and the consequences. The man's talk and conduct in a

criminal act is only a link in the chain; by itself it may display a cunning, deliberation, mature judgment and recognition of all the consequences, and yet when the other links in the history are known, it will be found to be the act of a clearly insane man.

The act of shooting Skinner with foolish boasts and general conduct, noted by great coolness and indifference, is a good illustration. What he did and said at this time and the impression he created on the minds of persons about him, is a small part of his history, and when judged alone may be very misleading, but taken in connection with all the facts of his life, points out the real condition of health or disease. It is evident that Cronin's mental condition at the time of this homicide must be judged from the facts of his inheritance, from the facts of his surroundings and manner of life, also from his conduct and acts when sober and drinking, and from all the circumstances and conditions which have been influential in his history.

The State assumed that Cronin had a low criminal brain, capable of deliberation and premeditation, and with power of control. That he could reason clearly concerning his acts and their consequences. That in the crime he displayed malice and revenge and full consciousness of the nature of this act, and the legal penalties.

That he was not only conscious of his conduct, but had the power of control and concealment, to take advantage of favoring conditions. That he has been and is of sufficient mental capacity to distinguish between right and wrong in the abstract, and and at the time of crime was of sound mind. That his claims of no memory of the act, and cool indifference, are mere subterfuges for concealment.

The fact of his periodical intoxication and drinking the day before the crime, were assumed to be aggravations and additional evidence of his responsibility.

I urged that Cronin could not have a sound brain, that his twenty years of drinking had so fixed and intensified the inherited defects that he could not reason or discriminate soundly. That in some respects his conduct would be automatic, where the motives and conditions of living were the same, but change these and his disease would be seen. Also, he had "a defective brain showing great disturbance from the use of alcohol, would always be swayed by morbid impulses of any form, and crime, suicide and other abnormal acts would be the rule and not the exception."

Many authorities have pointed out the evident unsoundness of degenerative neurotics, who were alcoholics of long standing. The acts of such persons are always open to suspicion and where crime is committed there is always a doubt. Unusual strange conduct can only be explained on the theory of brain degeneration and disease. While it may lack many of the symptoms of so-called insanity, it will nevertheless show degrees of palsy and brain disorder which can not be mistaken.

This case was argued in all the courts and decided against the prisoner, and finally the Board of Pardons declared him sane, and Cronin was hung Dec. 19, 1894. He maintained the same stolid indifference to the last, sleeping soundly up to a short time before the execution.

The second case was tried at Norwich, Conn., in May, 1894, and was that of Michal Donovan, who

shot and killed John Bell some months before. Donovan was a laborer in charge of a stationary engine, 45 years of age, and a man of quiet peaceable character. He was married and had a grown up family, and was a retiring, hard working man. For five years he had used spirits to excess at irregular times and intervals and was always silent and stupid when drinking, never quarrelsome or violent. During the year 1893 Donovan had drank more than usual, and been stupid nearly every night. In December of that year Bell, a colored man, had called him insulting names and was very abusive for some supposed slight. At this time Donovan paid no attention to this, saying he was not worth noticing and appeared to be in no way disturbed by Bell's insults. Two days after he took an old revolver to a shop to be repaired and loaded, telling many persons he was going to shoot Bell. He drank several times and showed the revolver and affirmed that he was going to find Bell and kill him. This he did in a short time and without any words or apparent excitement, finally, he shot at Bell and finding that he staggered and fell, fired his pistol in the water, and replaced it in his pocket. Quietly walking back, stopping to drink at two saloons, telling the barkeepers that he had shot Bell, he went home, changed his clothes, and walked over to the station house giving himself up. That night and the next day he suffered from delirium and delusions and was treated as suffering from a mild attack of delirium tremens. He soon after recovered and denied all recollection of the crime. From this point on to the time of the trial he was quiet, indifferent and seemed not to be interested in anything and only manifested emotion when visited by his family. When examined in jail he seemed to be dull and although in fair physical health, was strangely indifferent to the results of the trial. Expressed sorrow for having killed Bell, but did not remember the facts of the crime, and seemed to be unconcerned. He could not give a connected account of the difficulties which led up to the crime, and the suspected motive for shooting Bell, who had threatened to have him turned away from his place of work. His mind seemed confused as to events and his own conduct for some time past. In the history of his family an uncle on his mother's side became insane in middle life and was confined in an asylum until death. Donovan had been a moderate drinker up to about 40 years of age, when he began to have distinct drink paroxysms. These increased in frequency and duration until finally he drank steadily every day. The past six months he drank almost every hour, and was many times unfit for work. He complained of his head feeling bad and said he was "not right" dating from the time of an injury from a fall from a wagon. In a conversation with the medical experts for the State, two days later, he described the act of killing, denying that he had said he was going to kill Bell, and in a disjointed way explaining why he had shot Bell. His statements were opposed to the testimony of other witnesses, and seemed to be based on the history of the crime as repeated by others to him. Two medical experts swore that he was sane at the time of the crime and was conscious of his acts and their consequences. The two experts for the defense affirmed that it was a clear case of alcoholic imbecility and unconsciousness of acts, and nature of the crime, and that at present he was of a low order of intelligence, with un-

sound degenerative brain. They further urged that the cool preparation for the crime and telling what he was going to do, committing the act in broad daylight where he was seen by others, was clearly insanity. Such conduct following excesses in the use of drink, could not come from a mind sane and conscious of the acts committed. The counsel for the defense, Messrs. Hull, of New London, and Thayre, of Norwich, urged that there was more than reasonable doubt of the soundness of the prisoner's mind at the time of the commission of the crime. Also that his excessive drinking before the crime would of necessity so impair his reason and judgment that any unusual acts would be more or less insane and be committed without conscious reason. They urged that this crime in its boldness and strange premeditation and execution, and his delirious condition after, was strong proof of insanity. The experts for the defense affirmed that the man at the time the crime was committed was suffering from alcoholic dementia, and when confined had an attack of delirium tremens, from which he recovered with an enfeebled demented brain, and at present is in a low parietic condition.

The verdict was manslaughter and imprisonment for life. This was a rational modern disposition of the case.

Both of these cases were alike in the well marked evidence of imbecility due directly to alcohol. In the Cronin case, the heredity intensified and made the degree of degeneration very clear, and placed the assumption of insanity and unconsciousness without power of control, beyond all possible doubt. In the latter case, Donovan's conduct before and during the commission of the crime and after, clearly indicated the impossibility of mental soundness. Neither of these cases were able to reason rationally, or to form motives and to act upon them with reasonable consciousness of their import and consequences.

The hanging of Cronin ignored all modern facts concerning the brain and its disorders, and was a reversion to the theories that prevailed two centuries ago. Donovan's sentence recognized the dawn of a new era in jurisprudence, and progress along the lines of development, with clearer conceptions of the relations and limits of responsibility.

BLISTERING BY SUGGESTION.

Read before the Chicago Academy of Medicine, Jan. 11, 1895.

BY H. C. B. ALEXANDER, M.D.

CHICAGO.

As early as 1840 Dr. Lewis Prejalmini with "magnetized" paper produced the effect of cantharides. As Bjornstrom remarks, suggestion not "magnetized" paper caused the blistering. Bjornstrom demonstrates that, by suggestion, congestion may be produced, carried to raised swelling of the skin, to a blister like that of cantharides, to bloody transudation and even to complete formation of a wound. Charcot and his pupils thus produced all the phenomena of burns. Beaunis hypnotized a susceptible subject, told her that upon awakening she would have a red spot under her forearm which he tapped slightly but so as to avoid redness from pressure. Ten minutes after awakening there was evident redness at the place touched which increased in size, was visible about twenty minutes and then gradually disappeared. By suggestion Beaunis could cause the

mark to remain forty-eight hours. Facachon informed a hypnotized susceptible subject that a topoalgic spot would be blistered by cantharides. The next morning pain had vanished and blebs full of serum were present. He cured a right clavicular topoalgia in the same subject by suggestion, during hypnotization, of an actual cautery with the seeming result of a burn. The experiments of Charcot and his pupils in the same direction have had almost identical results. Beaunis made several experiments on Facachon's subject. May 12, 1885, she was hypnotized at 11 A.M.; on her back at a point unreachable by her hands, a strip of eight gummed stamps was fastened. A similar strip had been eighteen hours on another arm without effect. Over these a compress was placed and the subject thrice told that cantharides had been used. She was closely watched during the day and hypnotized at night with instructions to awake at 7 P.M. At 8 A.M., Facachon removed the compress in presence of Bernheim, Leibault, Leigeois, Beaunis and others. When the stamps were removed the underlying skin over about five centimeters was thicker, yellowish, white and inflamed but without blistering. Half a centimeter of surrounding skin was intensely red and swollen. The spot was covered with a dry compress; three hours later the spot had the same appearance and was photographed one hour thereafter. The photograph showed about five blisters. They increased, secreted serum and later suppurated. Later, the arm of the same subject was blistered in like manner.

Another subject suffered greatly from topoalgia. Facachon blistered her by suggestion, below the left ear and on the left temple. Facachon made cantharides inactive in the first subject by suggestion. Having by experiments on a second person, determined that his cantharides blister was active, he used two of the three parts of the same blister on his subject. The third part had been applied with due effect upon a patient needing counter-irritation. The subject was hypnotized; one piece of the same plaster placed on the left arm and the other on the right. The subject was told that the left arm would not blister, while the right would. Nine hours later when the bandages were removed the left arm was normal, the right blistered. My own case occurred in an hysteric in whom the neuropathic element was partly the result of environment. One evening a cutting from a roll of belladonna plaster was placed over a topoalgic spot on the neck. The same roll of plaster had been used on other patients without dermic effect. A decided blister, however, appeared under the plaster. At the outset while the possibility of untoward effects was taken into consideration, it was thought more probable that the blister was due to auto-suggestion, as the patient believed that the object of the plaster was to blister. The blister healed rapidly under lanolin dressing and suggestion. A control experiment was made. Cantharides was applied about 9 P.M., on a new topoalgic spot of which the patient complained without effect; the patient having been assured that it was simply a pain curing plaster. The spot remained free from redness until about 9 A.M. the next morning, when an incautious remark of the nurse led the patient to surmise that a real blister had been applied, and in an hour, wheals followed by vesicles appeared and disappeared. The patient had been meanwhile informed that the nurse