

awake at from three to five o'clock in the morning with a profound and insufferable headache which is entirely comparable to that of neurasthenia. Dr. Brown believed that this headache is caused by the depressing effect of the growth upon the vital portions of the encephalon, rather than by irritation of the meninges or of any of the cerebral tissues. He also criticised the doctrine that pressure or irritation of the growth in the brain is always the cause of existing optic neuritis.

Dr. Richard Dewey spoke briefly of the mental symptoms of brain tumor, which have received little systematic attention. It cannot be said that any typical form of mental disturbance belongs to brain tumor, the most frequent being dullness, apathy, semi-stupor, at times a good deal of emotional disturbance as the result of the irritation and pain, but in rare cases attacks very much like mania. He further called attention to the fact that a very considerable number of cases of brain tumor present in a general way the symptoms of general paresis, and are mistaken for that disease.

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223. A NOTE ON THE INFLUENCE OF MATERNAL INEBRIETY ON THE OFFSPRING. W. C. Sullivan (*Journal of Mental Science*, 45, 1899, p. 489).

The defective classes, it is well known, are largely recruited from among those of alcoholic habits and from the offspring of such alcoholics. Careful studies upon this question have been many, though this is true that but few observations have ever been made on the normal members of an alcoholic family tree. The present study follows in detail the life histories of a number of alcoholic families, from which the author draws a number of inferences.

Maternal inebriety is a condition peculiarly unfavorable to the vitality and to the normal development of the offspring. Its gravity in this respect is considerably greater than that of paternal alcoholism.

While its influence, particularly as measured by the test of infant mortality, appears to be exercised in considerable degree indirectly through deterioration of the milieu, a large part also depends on the primary action of the poison. This is evidenced by the tendency to still-births and abortions, by the high rate of epilepsy.

This primary influence of alcohol is due in part to the permanent effects of the poison on the maternal organism, inducing a transmissible degenerate condition, in part to a direct toxic action on the embryo, owing to continued excesses during pregnancy and lactation.

Under the modes of influence the normal tendency of the family with alcoholic maternity is toward a type the inverse of the syphilitic family: that is, the first born are normal, then come more or less defective children who live beyond infancy, then early deaths, still-births, and, finally, abortions.

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