

bizarre. Impulsive insanity should include those forms of degenerative insanity wherein the subject is possessed of morbid propensities and impulses and wherein, if the latter be consummated by action, the same is undertaken without a clear motive, but because an irresistible impulse so to act is experienced. Moral insanity is a form of imbecility characterized by the absence or enfeeblement of those emotions which combat the inconsiderate gratification of egotism. What Pinel termed *manic sine delire* may be resolved into three classes: (1) Certain forms of degenerative insane states, impulsive insanity and moral idiocy, both as a rule unassociated with false beliefs; or where, like the aura of epilepsy, the hallucination has no causal relation to the reflex movement; (2) instances in which the subject is possessed by delusions, but these were slight and associated with reasoning power; (3) cases of active melancholia, in which the constant dread of something unknown but fearful is translated into a violent act. The idea of moral insanity was extended by Pritchard to include a moral perversion of the natural feelings, affections, inclinations and impulses, without any remarkable disorder or defect of the intellect and particularly without any insane illusion or hallucination. The writer believes that the phrases moral and impulsive insanity should be avoided. The best authorities today look upon the mental types which they represent as degenerative forms of mental alienation.

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URBAN SELECTION AND MENTAL HEALTH. J. A. Macpherson (Review of *Neurology and Psychiatry*, Feb., 1903, No. 2).

The author presents a short statistical note bearing on the physical changes of type consequent on urban selection. The first is an increased dolichocephaly, the second point bears on the variation in height, in some cities the country inhabitants are taller, in others the urban population. An increased "brunetteness" is thought to be a further result. The selected urban type then is tall, dolichocephalic, dark haired and dark eyed. Mentally it is vigorous, quick-witted, capable of endurance, and self-controlled. Fond of amusement, it is not readily overcome by excitement, and does not yield itself easily to excesses. As regards alcohol it ought to have undergone a special evolution. The immigrant fresh from the country is confronted by all the sordid features and must run the gauntlet of zymotic disease, alcohol, syphilis and tuberculosis. On the question of insanity it is not clear whether the author thinks that there is more insanity in urban populations than in the country. The tendency of the argument seems to be that the many factors in city life tend to raise the incidence of mental deterioration.

JELLIFFE.

THE PROMINENT EYE. A. Haig (*Med. Record.*, Oct. 11, 1902).

The underlying cause common to Grave's disease and minor conditions of prominent eye is high blood pressure, and this the author holds is due to the presence of uric acid in the blood. Only rarely do new growths or myopia cause prominence or retraction of the eye. The prominent eye is often met with in cases of high blood pressure (migraine), headache, enlargement of the thyroid occurs in most women during menstruation when the blood pressure is raised; the quick pulse is met with in all high blood pressure conditions. With the prominent eye is associated a puffiness or distended condition of the skin, which may later relax. Conditions which hinder the circulation through the lungs, such as bronchitis, asthma, and emphysema, increase the prominent eye; also coughing, straining, heavy exertion, or mental excitement. The prominent eye tells us whether there is high blood pressure, how long it has been there, and whether the heart has slowly and steadily hypertrophied or not.

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