

native-born patients are first, English-born (including Scotch and Canadian) next, Germans next, and Irish last. Of the native-born the colored or mixed African and white races are almost without exception incurable, and generally develop epilepsy or some other degenerative type of disease. The mixed Indian and French (half-breed) are more curable than the mulatto, because possessing more native vigor of constitution and better suited to our climate. Out of 72 cases of paretic dementia, 33, or nearly 46 per cent., were of American birth from presumably American parentage; 20, or nearly 28 per cent., were of English birth (including Canada); 3 were of English descent but born in the United States; 5 were Irish; 5 of Irish descent; 5 were Germans; and 1 a Norwegian. On hallucinatory psychoses it is found that race and nativity have some bearing. On careful analysis of all hallucinatory cases it is found that these have been recorded in a little more than 28 per cent. In natives, however, they have been detected in 23 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent.; in Germans in nearly 25 per cent.; in English (including Canadians and Scotch) in about 27 per cent.; and in Irish in 39 per cent. The proportion of hallucinated patients among the English is doubtless relatively increased by classing with them patients of Canadian birth, many of whom are doubtless of French or Irish descent. These results vary much from those of Spitzka (*Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 1880), but are not as ethnologically thorough.

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INCREASE OF INSANITY IN THE UNITED STATES.—Dr. Foster Pratt, Kalamazoo, Michigan, (*Detroit Lancet*, Dec., 1884,) says that the proportion of insane to native white population, in the Northern States, is 1 in 597; in the Southern States, 1 in 660; and in the District of Columbia and Territories, 1 in 748. That among the foreign white the proportion in the Northern States is 1 in 248; in the Southern States, 1 in 283; in the District of Columbia and Territories, 1 in 236. That among the colored races the proportion in the Northern States is 1 in 545; in the District and Territories, 1 in 680; in the Southern States, 1 in 1,235. That the average proportion of insanity among native whites in the entire United States is 1 in 618; among foreign whites, 1 in 250, and among the colored races, 1 in 1,097; and that the total average for the entire country of all population is 1 in 545  $\frac{8}{100}$ . It is a significant fact that the Northern States, including the District and the Territories, containing about 60 per cent. of the entire population, have 70 per cent. of its insane; and that this 10 per cent. of proportional excess is more than supplied by the excess of foreign insane over the number that would result if the ratio of native insane to native population in the North were made the ratio in the foreign population. To illustrate: The average ratio of insane to all native population (white and colored) in the Northern States is 1 to 642. If this proportion be applied to the 5,763,894 foreign born living in the North, the number of

insane resulting among them would be 9,240 instead of 23,989 as it now is—a difference of 14,749, which is much more than the 10 per cent. of proportional excess of insane to population in the Northern States and Territories. Admitting that census tables, prior to 1880, fail to give the full aggregates of the insane, it will be safe, for present purposes, to assume, that, whatever errors there may have been in the totals, the error of each census was fairly distributed between the various elements of population; so that the census proportion of insane to each class of population was fair and just. This is assuming much, since the errors in the census tables prior to 1880 would affect the foreign population largely from the lack of intelligence shown by the census enumerators; many of the foreign travelling insane population would escape enumeration. How large such possible errors are may be conjectured from the facts stated by the Illinois State Board of Charities. In 1870 the difference between the number of the insane on the list of the census enumerators and those on the State Board of Charities was 1,377; there being on the lists of the Board taken in 1869 1,434 not on the census list, and 115 names not on the board list were on the census list, while 953 names were common to both. Dr. Clevenger (*Medical Journal and Examiner*, 1883) states that he has known of instances where name after name was copied from the Chicago Directory and placed on the census lists as inhabitants of certain districts in the Territories. Such errors of omission and commission seriously vitiate Dr. Pratt's conclusions which are that: First: Beginning with 1860 the foreign-born population had increased, since 1850, nearly 100 per cent., while the foreign-born insane had increased 181 per cent. Second: That at the close of the next decade, in 1870, the total foreign born had increased only about 30 per cent., but the insane of this class had increased nearly 100 per cent. Third: In 1880 the foreign born had increased less than 20 per cent., but their insane had increased 150 per cent.

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SUMMER VACATIONS FOR THE INSANE.—Dr. W. W. Godding, Washington, D. C., (*American Journal of Insanity*, October, 1884,) says, speaking of the summer home at Brattleboro, Vt.: "The latter especially impressed me during a visit in the early autumn. Here were the insane, like ourselves, taking their summer vacation, their quiet rooms and pleasant piazzas open to the air and sunshine, with the rest of the hills and the freedom of the birds and trees about them. To their darkened lives this has come as a dream of Arcadia. And in the direction of enlightened provision in the past, I could not sufficiently admire the far-seeing wisdom of the first superintendent (Dr. W. H. Rockwell), who had, when land was cheap, purchased wellnigh a township of meadow and hill and mountain, so that to-day the insane could enjoy this picnic life far from the hospital walls, and take long rambles over the hills all unmolested within their own domains, a world so wide