

these "Children of the Siege" came into the world puny and misshapen. M. LeGrand du Saulle, one of France's most celebrated alienists, has stated that out of ninety-two such children examined by him sixty-four were crippled in mind or body; out of this number thirty-five showed malformations and twenty-nine were imbecile. There is nothing surprising in these facts. They are but impressive, because exaggerated illustrations of what we see about us daily; children born of want and intemperance. Is it any wonder that they grow up to beggary and crime. The lives of these "Children of the Siege" contain a lesson for us physicians, as well as for Ladies' Aid-Societies.

M. Legrand du Saulle, in the same address delivered last April, brought out some interesting facts concerning the increase of insanity in France since the Franco-Prussian hostilities. He has examined 35,000 insane, at the Prefecture, in the past fourteen years, and concludes that the intense excitement of those days is responsible in many cases for the mental alienation, having either produced it directly, or precipitated its manifestation. Furthermore, he attributes the increased insanity of this latter half of the century to thirst for pleasure, pursuit of wealth, speculation in stocks and intemperance, which last was the exciting cause in 25 per cent. of his cases. Again, is there not a suggestive lesson here for us of America. Our people are not given up to a search after frivolous enjoyment, as are the French, chiefly the Parisians, with whom it is an absorbing passion apparently, nor is there here that consumption of absinthe which is accredited with the speedy production of serious brain disease; but the excitement of our stock exchanges and boards of trade, high pressure in other branches of business, and the great consumption of alcohol, are evils against which physicians, as conservators of the public health, should raise a vigorous protest.

PROGRESS OF CHOLERA IN EUROPE.—During the week ending Sept. 8, despatches show that the epidemic cholera has been making but little progress in France and Spain, but has extended much more rapidly in Italy, the scourge prevailing very severely in Naples. In the city just named, 451 new cases and 154 deaths are reported as having occurred during the twenty-four hours preceding the evening of the 8th inst. A large part of the inhabitants are represented as panic stricken, and as resorting to superstitious rites and ceremonies to a degree that would have disgraced the inhabitants in the darkest ages of human history.

THE LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL.—It is with much pleasure that we give our readers, in the present number of the JOURNAL, the paper presented in the Section of Surgery and Anatomy of the American Medical Association, at its meeting in May last, by Dr. A. Pearce Gould, of London, containing the results of one year of practice in the surgical department of the London Temperance Hospital. The facts and statistics presented, and the sentiments accompanying them, are worthy of the most careful consideration, especially by that large class of medical and surgical practitioners who practically use alcohol in some form, as though it was a universal panacea for human ills.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, in annual session in Philadelphia during the past week, has been largely attended, and much valuable scientific matter has been presented in the various Sections. The interest manifested and pleasure enjoyed in the receptions and social relations of this anniversary, have been greatly increased by the very large number of foreign visitors present.

THE LATE DR. GRAFTON TYLER.—The interesting biographical sketch of the late Dr. Tyler, so long and well known in Washington and Georgetown, which was unexpectedly crowded out of our last week's issue, will be found under the head of Necrology in the present number.

PRICKLY HEAT.—Mr. Henry T. Wharton in the *Lancet*, records a case of this distressing affection in a medical man who was subject to it each summer, after passing the age of thirty years, until it became intolerable. From the conspicuous follicular lichenous inflammation on his back, he could not bear to take a Turkish bath in public or to turn up his shirt sleeves in ever so troublesome an obstetric case. From May to November he was a martyr to his troublesome malady. He consulted all his friends and more than one distinguished specialist. His efforts to get cured were as unremitting as they were unavailing. At last the idea occurred to Mr. Wharton that perhaps the tight short-sleeved India-gauze undershirts worn in the summer were too thin either to absorb the perspiration, or to protect the skin from sudden (but perniciously grateful) chills. They were changed for the thickest long-sleeved undershirts made entirely of wool, such as worn in the depth of winter, resulting in the absolute cessation of his experience of "prickly heat." For years he suffered a transient attack of urticaria—itching without any outward signs, after a cold bath. Since he has taken to the constant use of hot water for all his ablutions, this irritation has never returned.