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# THE RELATION OF SALOONS TO INSANITY

BY  
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By Filmore Condit

"Stockton, Cal., Dec. 4th.

"**A**UGUST ARRIVEY, 30 years' old, a printer by trade, is under arrest here, the confessed murderer of his mother, Mrs. Mary Arrivey, 58 years old."

"The man in the airship told me to do it," Arrivey continually mutters, as the only reason for his crime."

"Because of his actions and mutterings, the police believe the man is insane."

"Liquor is believed, however, to be at the root of Arrivey's crime, as he had for the last few years, obtained one position after another, only to lose them in rapid succession because of continual sprees."

"Mrs. Arrivey was found lying in a pool of blood in the kitchen, with her skull crushed and her face gashed as if from blows from a hatchet."

"Search of the premises disclosed Arrivey, muttering like a child, hiding behind some bushes in the yard."

"Confronted with the dead body of his mother, he broke down and confessed his crime."

This paragraph, which appeared in the newspapers a few days ago, is one of those which shock us for a moment as we read them and are then forgotten as commonplace incidents of life.

Insanity and epilepsy are products of civilization; evils so horrible to their victims, so distressing to all related, so hurtful and burdensome to society as to deserve the attention of all thinking men.

Man in his primal condition, was undoubtedly free from these scourges and less advanced nations are still comparatively exempt.

Dr. Henry S. Noble, Superintendent of the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane, referring to this, says:

"In India, with a population of 300,000,000 of people



who are subject periodically to the most terrible scourges to which humanity is liable, such as famine and pestilence, the percentage of insanity to the population is almost infinitesimal as compared with that of Great Britain."

"China has a population of over 400,000,000 and the struggle for existence is fierce and unceasing, yet in no part of the world, is mental alienation so infrequent."

According to Mulhall, there was in India in 1903, only one case of insanity to every 4,340 population as compared with one case in the hospitals of our country to each 490 people on January 1, 1910.

Last year the census showed 187,454 cases of insanity, not including epileptics, in our hospitals; that while our entire population had increased at the rate of about 12 per cent in the preceding six years, insanity has increased 22.6 per cent.

That this host of the "intellectually dead" already almost equals in number that of both the great armies that contended at Gettysburg and has been increasing at a more rapid rate than our population, is sadly impressive.

The financial cost is of least consequence, but this has been not less than an aggregate of \$250,000,000 for hospital buildings and an annual maintenance charge of over \$30,000,000.

Why have science, medical skill, increasing wealth and philanthropy proven inadequate to stay this tide? Surely the Creator never designed his creatures to become ghastly wrecks?

The causes of insanity in our nation, are so interwoven with the warp and woof of violated moral and physical law that no single explanation is sufficient, but from hospitals and authorities upon the subject, comes abundant and conclusive evidence that alcoholism overshadows all other causes in the destruction of human minds.

It produces insanity in three distinct ways:

1. Directly, to drinkers as a result of their own indulgence in intoxicants.
2. Indirectly, through heredity, drinkers transmit to their descendants, a predisposition to insanity and neurotic weakness.
3. Indirectly, as a cause of family, social and business trouble it often is a contributory cause of insanity.

#### *Alcohol As a Direct Cause.*

Dr. T. S. Clouston, of Edinburgh, who is perhaps the highest living authority upon unsoundness of mind, says: "Alcohol is by far the most common and the most characteristic of the poisons, introduced from without, that have a markedly hurtful effect on the brain cells.\*\*\* If Socrates or Marcus Aurelius or Job had continuously poisoned their brains with London gin, they would inevitably have become unsound in mind."

William Mahon, M. D., Superintendent and Medical Director of the Manhattan State Hospital of New York, says: "In a study which was made last year (1909), of 961 cases admitted to the Manhattan State Hospital in which a fairly reliable history could be obtained, we found that of all the causes, alcohol either alone or combined with others, stood out most prominently."

"Of 358 men whose insanity was said to be due to physical causes, 145, or over 40 per cent, were due to alcohol alone, while 231, or over 64 per cent were due to alcohol and other physical causes."

"Among the 336 women in whom the exciting cause was physical, 25 per cent were due to alcohol alone and 33 per cent were due to alcohol and other physical agents."

"All physicians (hospital) are at their wits end to find even a temporary abode for those suffering from the effects of alcohol."

Recent annual reports from forty hospitals in Penn-



sylvania, New Jersey, California, Delaware, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, Washington, Wyoming, Nevada, Colorado, Maryland, Iowa and Connecticut show that in 15,363 cases of insanity where the causes were known, 3,383 or 22 per cent, alcohol was stated as the single direct cause.

Albert Warren Ferris, M. D., Sheldon T. Viele and William T. Parkhurst, Lunacy Commissioners of New York, having charge of thirteen great hospitals containing over thirty thousand insane people, state that 27.5 per cent of admissions from cities and 14.2 per cent from rural districts are due to alcohol and that it is "an etiological factor in almost 40 per cent of all admissions.

#### *Alcoholic Heredity.*

More appalling, perhaps, than alcoholism as a direct cause of insanity in its victims, is its power to hurt and destroy the minds of unborn generations. The evidence is abundant that bad heredity is responsible for a large proportion of existing insanity and alcoholism is one of the most potential causes of bad heredity.

Dr. Clouston says, "Looking at this matter from the point of view of the authorities who have gone into it and the facts at present available, it seems to be that the weight of evidence is greatly in favor of the transmission of evil results from drunken parents to their children, so that degenerations, bodily and mental, lowered intelligence, impaired moral qualities, liable to diseases of various kinds, and unsoundness of mind, are liable to result to children from the alcoholic poisoning of the parents."

"The conclusion of almost every man who has recently studied and written about mental unsoundness, is that evil nervous heredity is by far the most frequent and the most potent predisposing cause of the condition."

"Without its existence, there would be very little unsoundness of mind in the world."

Dr. Clouston points out the effects of alcoholism upon unborn children—The relation of liquor-drinking

ancestry to heredity and refers to an instance within his observation of nervous peculiarities reappearing in the fourth generation.

G. Wilse Robison, M. D., Superintendent of Hospital No. 3 of Missouri, says, "In the treatment of insanity, we must begin with the ancestors."

"In at least 90 per cent of all cases of insanity, there is inherited an unstable nervous organization which pre-disposes to the disease."

"Alcoholism and criminality in the parent means in many instances idiocy, imbecility, epilepsy, insanity and criminality in the offspring."

T. C. Biddle, M. D., Superintendent of the Topeka Hospital of Kansas, says: "In not less than 75 per cent of all cases of insanity, heredity is an active predisposing cause of the attack."

"'Like produces like' is nature's law and this unchanging, unchangeable law is nowhere more actively enforced than in that field of nature where unsound and unstable minds produce unsound and unstable minds."

The Commission of Lunacy for England and Wales, estimate that there are about three insane people who come from apparently sane stock for every one whose family history contains a record of insanity.

They point out, however, that "this does not mean that in only one case out of four is insanity inherited."

"In many instances where no positive insanity can be found in the family, marked instability of the nervous system can be discovered and the most common cause of this ancestral instability of the nervous system is alcohol."

"A hard drinker, though himself escaping insanity, may transmit a tendency to insanity."

#### *Alcohol As a Contributory Cause.*

Insanity is in most cases the result of several contributory causes, of which alcohol is usually one.

F. W. Hatch, M. D., General Superintendent of State Hospitals of California, says, "The ideally nor-



mally, constituted man is not at all likely to become insane; he will retain his mental integrity in spite of stress, strain, grief, shock, worry or loss of fortune."

"In the great majority of persons becoming insane, there exists a latent predisposition which an accidental determining cause may at any time transform into symptomatic manifestations."

Dr. Hatch points out, alcohol and alcoholic heredity as the principal predisposing and contributory causes.

Dr. Clouston says, "A brain that is absolutely sound in constitution, can scarcely be made unsound in its mental functions by any *mental* stress whatsoever."

"That is a commonplace in tragedy. No grief, no joy, no sorrow, no loss, no affliction will have the effect of producing that kind of unsoundness which we call insanity."

"When Rome was sacked by the Vandals, when Leyden was besieged by the Spaniards, there would scarcely have remained a sane man or woman in those cities, if mental and bodily stress alone had power to deprive men and women of their essential soundness of mind."

"A doctor is usually not satisfied when one cause only is assigned for an attack. He looks out for more."

"A man suffering from unsoundness may have a bad heredity, his general health may have weakened, he may have been taking too much alcohol 'to keep himself up,' and lastly he may have suddenly lost his fortune." "It took all these causes acting together to upset his brain."

The hospitals of our country in their reports of the causes of the insanity of their patients, usually record most of them as follows: "Unknown," "Alcoholism," "Heredity."

Other causes occasionally stated are: "Worry," "Anxiety," "Business Reverse," "Family Trouble," "Grief," "Shock," "Love," "Climate," "Heat," "Sickness," "Overwork," "Fever," etc.

It is probable that the latter are usually contributory

and not sole causes and it is reasonably certain that alcohol may be and sometimes is related to these.

The well known declaration of the United States Supreme Court that "The statistics of every state, show a greater amount of \*\*\*\*\* misery attributable to the use of ardent spirits obtained at these retail liquor saloons than to any other source," justifies this belief.

#### *Leading Authorities.*

The leading authorities of the entire world are in close accord in tracing insanity to alcoholism. Berkeley, Spitzka and others say: "Of all the varied causes of mental infirmities, heredity and alcohol are most important."

Echeverria, Martin and Paterson coincide in the belief that alcohol is an important factor both directly and indirectly in the production of epilepsy.

Kraepelin says, "We are fully acquainted with some important and widespread causes of insanity and their removal is not only one of the duties of the state but is also within its power to accomplish."

"Among these stands first and foremost, the abuse of alcohol."

"It is no mere chance that at the present day, the leading alienists are in the lead in the movement against alcohol."

The causes of insanity are in many cases so remote, in others, so complex and the history of cases is usually so difficult to ascertain, that the proportion of existing insanity for which alcohol is responsible, can never be known.

The known facts, however, alcohol as the greatest direct cause of insanity, as the most potent cause of bad heredity and as a prolific cause of social, family and business trouble, the prevalence of insanity in alcohol consuming nations and its infrequency in others, all strongly indicate that it is responsible for a large proportion of the insanity in our nation and others.



*Have Saloons Caused Insanity?  
Has Destructive Liquor Legislation Diminished It?*

When we consider the financial resources of the liquor interests, their efforts to mislead public opinion and the unintended effect of existing interstate commerce laws in lending the power and authority of the national government to the liquor interests in evading, violating, defying and nullifying state and municipal control of the liquor traffic; when we remember all this, it would not be strange if all the efforts to reduce liquor consumption and resulting insanity had failed.

What are the facts?

Let us contrast recent hospital reports from distinctly license states with others from states where public opinion and legislative enactment have made radical reduction in the sale of intoxicants:

Manhattan Hospital	New York
Stockton "	California
Farnhurst "	Delaware
Northern "	Wisconsin
Mendota "	Wisconsin
State "	Nevada
Springfield "	Maryland
Worcester "	Massachusetts
Tewksbury "	Massachusetts
Bridgewater "	Massachusetts
Taunton "	Massachusetts
Overbrook "	New Jersey
Norwich "	Connecticut

Reports from these show that of cases of insanity where the causes were known 26.9 per cent were caused by alcohol.

From the

Eastern Maine Hospital,	Maine
State Hospital	Maine
Osawatomie Hospital	Kansas
Topeka Hospital	Kansas

State Hospital	Kansas
Eastern Miss. Hospital,	Miss.
Morganton Hospital,	N. Carolina
North Texas Hospital	Texas

We find their reports show, that of cases where the causes were known, only 5.9 per cent were caused by alcohol.

The Census Bureau reports that there was on January 1, 1910, in our hospitals, one insane patient, not including epileptics, for every 490 of our entire population. That while other factors besides alcohol probably affected to some extent, the relative proportion of insanity in the various states, legislative policy regarding the sale of intoxicants overshadow all others, is indicated by the report.

Maine	had 1 case of insanity to 590 population
New Hampshire	had 1 case of insanity to 473 population
Rhode Island	had 1 case of insanity to 436 population
Vermont	had 1 case of insanity to 379 population
Connecticut	had 1 case of insanity to 311 population
Massachusetts	had 1 case of insanity to 290 population

The entire eight states having state-wide prohibitory law—Maine, Kansas, North Dakota, Alabama, Georgia, Oklahoma and North Carolina had 15,806 cases of insanity in a total population of 13,805,821, or one to every 873 people as compared with one to 490 in our entire nation.

Turning to the Northern Central group of states, we find Wisconsin, singular, distinct, conspicuous, in having many more insane in proportion to population than any of its neighbors. Why is it?

Wisconsin	had 1 to every 376 people
Michigan	had 1 to every 419 people
Illinois	had 1 to every 437 people
Ohio	had 1 to every 449 people
Indiana	had 1 to every 609 people

Why has Wisconsin an unusual proportion of in-



sane? Its soil is fertile, its industries prosperous, and it has no unusual congestion of population in great cities.

Is there any other explanation than that it has more saloons in proportion to population than its neighbors, that it has not kept pace with enlightened public sentiment, that only three states in our country have so many saloons per capita.

The beer said to have made Milwaukee famous, seems to have made Wisconsin's insanity pitiable.

Passing to the Mountain Group of states, we find Nevada had one case of insanity to every 316 people as compared to one to 490 in our nation and one to every 762 in the other seven states of its group. It has neither great cities nor excess of people of foreign birth. There is one sufficient explanation, one liquor store for every fifty-three people or more probably than in any other part of the Anglo-Saxon world.

On the Pacific coast we find California having one insane wreck for every 356 people, a much larger proportion than in the entire nation or the other Pacific states.

Why? A land of wheat and fruit and gold and oil, of varied industries and rich natural resources, a land where labor is usually in demand and living may always be inexpensive.

One explanation stands above all others. According to the Internal Revenue Department, California has one retail liquor dealer for every 150 people, ranking in this, next to Nevada.

Crossing the continent, we find New York state with a population of 9,113,000 people, had 31,265 cases of insanity as compared with 31,734 in all the fifteen Southern and Southwestern states, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, having an aggregate population of 27,886,000 people.

Other causes beside alcohol may affect ratios of in-

sanity, but there is none in New York so vital, none equal in importance to the great fact that public opinion has permitted 31,265 dealers in alcoholic intoxicants to do business or about 12,000 more than in all the fifteen states of the South and Southwest.

The relation between alcoholism and insanity so evident in our nation, is also apparent across the sea.

Until recently, no important advance in restrictive excise legislation had been gained in Great Britain.

The per capita consumption of alcohol in various forms in the United Kingdom is now about 30 per cent greater than in our country.

They have one case of insanity for every 357 people as compared with one to 490 here.

Besides those technically insane, Great Britain has a cast army of epileptics and other mentally informed people.

The Royal Commission on Feeble Minded, reported in 1908, that there were at least 350,000 mentally diseased and mentally helpless, non-producing, dependent people in the United Kingdom.

Doctor Clouston estimated the number to be in excess of 400,000 in a population much less than half that of our nation.

Alcoholism causes insanity. Saloons foster and produce alcoholism. The fatal relation between them should be known by all men. To favor or defend saloons is to favor and defend the increase of insanity.

Surely, whoever would knowingly consent to the increase of insanity, is unworthy of the respect of thinking men, of the blessings of civilization or the mercy of God.

A Japanese friend was asked one day, the meaning of their word Banzai, whether it meant the same as our Hurrah! "Ah, more, far more than that," he said, "It means, hurrah, hurrah, for a thousand years."

When the people of each of our states and all our nation shall regard a high rate of insanity as disgraceful,



when all shall unite against its greatest cause, then will have come a time of lasting joy for all who have sympathy for weak and tempted men.

“It is not the will of your Heavenly Father that one of these little ones should perish.”







