

what slightly of juries, because my opinion has so seldom been regarded worth listening to by them, and really our methods of arriving at opinions have been so different that when we have reached conclusions, it is no wonder there was a difference. However, as a good many general practitioners have at times expressed faith in the opinions of the juries, and you have seen what a high regard I have for the conclusions of the practitioner, basing this on long experience, you will easily understand how modest I can afford to be about my own opinions. Now if I can say such complimentary things about the honesty of the busy general practitioner and his conclusions, how is it possible to criticise his methods with any degree of success. The excuse must be that in other countries, in certain instances, where practitioners have been equally honest and conscientious, they have suffered at the hands of the law because they failed to make their opinions clear and convincing in the eyes of the law, and when you have had as much experience as I in this line, you will realize what a task this is. There is something to be said too on the side of the law, and as a matter of fact we cannot be too careful in making out a certificate which is to deprive a man of his liberty, and liberty is the greatest right State confers on any man. The very fact that we have been so free from prosecution in the past has made us careless, and is no guarantee that we shall be exempt in the future. If then I speak in a somewhat dictatorial fashion about things you may all be familiar with, you must make allowance for the fact that it is in the general interest that this is done and with the hope that all may escape the unpleasantness of a prosecution. "To be forewarned is to be forearmed" must be my text.

Very few people, physicians included, if I may be permitted to make so sweeping an assertion, realize when talking to an insane person, that the delusions expressed are the outcome of brain disease. It is a difficult thing indeed to get oneself into the attitude of realizing that the brain is the organ of mind, and more difficult still to understand that the grotesque display and excitement so often exhibited are the result of disordered brain function. The law insists, quite properly too, that certificates of insanity shall be granted by physicians, and if they do so improperly and in a slipshod manner their punishment may be severe. The majority of physicians have had few opportunities of studying mental diseases clinically, and naturally find themselves in deep water when asked to certify in certain cases. The Science of Medicine has become so large that we cannot expect