

trograde movement should be treated as one would treat other forms of aberration of intellect—not by the straight jacket, but by judicious firmness. If the compulsory regulation were not to go into effect until three years had gone by I am certain the opposition will by that time have melted away. In the meantime the practice of it can be continually and steadfastly and intelligently pushed, and the people will soon find how very little truth there is in the dreadful stories claimed by the anti-vaccinationists as true.

Speaking of mental troubles reminds me of Sutherland's article on insanity (*British Medical Journal* for January 30th) and it is to be remarked regarding it that very many valuable observations are there crowded into small space. He speaks chiefly of the premonitory symptoms of insanity and devotes some space to their treatment. Esquirol's three stages of insanity are cleverly referred to the different classes of persons with whom the unfortunate comes in contact during the progress of his disease. The first stage (change of habits) is usually observed only by the relatives of the patient; in the second (perversion of the affections) the family physician is added to the list of observers; while in the last stage (that of true insanity) the asylum superintendent takes the patient in hand. Unless patients have suffered from a previous attack it is almost impossible to guess during the first stages what form the insanity will assume.

Unless the result of alcohol drinking, following injury, or from sunstroke (when an attack of mania may be the first sign of the trouble) the disease rarely begins with excitement. Indeed the majority of cases are usually preceded by a depression period, the *stadium melancholicum* of Guislain.

Change of habits! that is the characteristic symptom. *Alienus*, the man acts as if he were some other man and not the rational creature we once knew him to be. He is extravagant, suspicious, and jealous, when he used to be careful, open and confiding. He loses his memory, neglects his dress, becomes depressed, and gets "eccentric." The style of conversation is changed, oaths and obscene language are uttered by those who were previously unknown to be guilty of such conduct. Sexual appetite varies, but, strangely enough, it is in excess in general paralysis and in senile dementia. The maid servant, says the lecturer, is frequently found to be pregnant by the master before

any mental aberration is discovered by the relations. This sounds like an irreverent statement, but it is not to be forgotten in the diagnosis and prognosis of insanity.

This is the free-and-easy way in which some correspondents write to and editors publish letters in Western Medical periodicals. The *Texas Courier Record* contains the following description of dengue "by one who has had it:"

Dengue is a viviparous, homogeneous, amphibious hermaphrodite from the head of "bitter creek," close to "wild cat run." It is indigenous in Austin and spontaneous in Dallas—among hogs, dogs, cats, and other non-office seekers. It is contra-indicated in all cases where a fellow expect to engage in a prize fight or make a "crap." It is bilateral, having an inside and an outside. It has no symptoms—it strikes a fellow on his way from church or in a saloon, and paralyzes him to the end of his hair, and then feels out for "other worlds to conquer." Its pathology is confined mostly to the whole body, skin and mouth. It destroys a man's pugnacity and plants instead thereof humility and a third-class case of rheumatic-gout-small-pox-fits-influenza-endways and chloroformmorbus. Those who have not had their pegs knocked from under them by this fiendish short-rib searcher say they think they have "had a touch of it." To all such we wish to say:—wait till it "touches" you up in earnest, and then you will say in the words of Horace Greeley, "I have *wilted*."

The Cartwright Lectures were delivered by Dr. Osler before the Alumni Association of the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons. The subject, "Certain Problems in the Physiology of the Blood," was treated of in three lectures, and the course has been spoken of in a way which should make every Canadian feel proud. The *Philadelphia Medical News* and *New York Medical Record* both contain the lectures *in extenso*, and every one should read them.

Here is an odd contribution to the study of biology in the Journal of the State Board of Health for Tennessee. Dr. D. F. Wright describes a condition in eggs which he claims is a true inflammation thereof:—"There is a condition of the egg, very little known, which considerably impairs its sanitary value as an article of food. Soon after it became the practice to transport eggs in large quantities and to long distances by railway trains