

All reforms have a somewhat similar history ; vested prejudices and conventionalities must be disturbed, and such disturbance necessarily means opposition ; but in view of this contest between the unalienable rights of incarcerated invalids, and the inexcusable attitude of officials, it is high time that this first period of opposition should pass into that of calm discussion or co-operation. It is too late in the history of civilization for human rights to be ruthlessly neglected, even by official decree. From a thousand invalids, from a thousand homes, comes forth the prayer breathed so often in history, " Liberty or Death." We have entered upon this crusade and shall cease only when every asylum patient in our Dominion has extended to her and to him the privileges and blessings which are at the disposal of modern medical science, even if the chariot wheels of progress be dyed red with the political and official life-blood of those who affirm that the present methods are adequate.

The importance of this subject cannot be overestimated. It lies too closely to many of us to be thoughtlessly put aside, and appeals to our sympathies as perhaps few others can. We, as practitioners, cannot afford longer to view this matter in the light of our class-room knowledge, while patients are being committed to the asylum with little examination and less treatment. The rôle of such farcical performances must cease, and in their place appear a measure of reasonable effort and the same principles of diagnosis and treatment obtain which are recognized in other departments.

Some allowance can be made for the apparent incredulity or indifference in regard to the results of different workers in this department ; upon the part of those who, overworked in their daily round of self-denying services, their lives already too full, have given no thought to this matter ; but we are far from supposing that any reasonable number of our profession, after having weighed the evidence submitted and considered the subject in detail, could fail to appreciate the main points at issue, or to co-operate in this effort on behalf of more reasonable treatment of this neglected class.