

Seeking to determine wherein lay the truth in these contradictory findings, I began an examination of the available material in Rockwood Hospital in July, 1907, and submit the following preliminary report :—

Only six cases of general paralysis were found among the 600 inmates at Rockwood, and in these cases diphtheroid bacilli were found in noses and in one case from tonsil. In making preparations, sterilized swabs were rubbed against the nasal septum (using a sterile speculum) and then smeared over Loeffler's serum tubes. Similar preparations were made from the tonsil, but after several dozen tonsils had been examined with only one positive finding, the tonsil examination was omitted. The inoculated serum tubes were incubated at 37 degrees C. from 18 to 24 hours and then examined. Four pure cultures were secured from the six positive general paralysis cases and kept for further examination. Attention was then turned to other forms of insanity, and in 21 cases (7 male, 14 female) diphtheroid bacilli were found in 18 cases, and in 12 of these, pure cultures were secured. I may say, that only one examination was made, in fact only one nostril in each case, so that possibly the percentage (85.7 per cent.) in other cases of insanity would have been still higher had a second examination been made.

In examining the patients, cases from all different wards were chosen, and no case was examined in which there was any suspicion of nasal trouble. The frequent presence of these bacilli somewhat surprising me, I next examined some cases from the wards of the General and Hotel Dieu Hospitals. Of 12 adult cases from the wards of the General Hospital, 8 gave diphtheroid bacilli and four pure cultures were secured for further examination. From six children in the Scarlet Fever Isolation Wing, 2 gave diphtheroid bacilli. In the Hotel Dieu Hospital, 12 ward cases gave 5 with diphtheroid bacilli, and from these, two pure cultures were secured. Thus, in 24 adult cases in