

" 'Tis not enough to help the fallen up,
But to support him after."

Criminals discharged from prisons and reformatories are helped and encouraged by Prisoners' Aid Societies, often indeed assisted by the State with gifts of clothing and money. Fallen women are taken in hand by societies with a view to their reformation. Orphans are housed, educated, and clothed by the charitable. Only for the poor creatures who have emerged from the gloom of dethroned reason is there no helping hand, no assistance of any kind. The best remedy for this pitiful state of affairs is to be found in the organization of "After-Care Associations for the Insane," such as exist in France, which country was the pioneer in this branch of philanthropy, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, and Great Britain. Such associations would have to be the outcome of private enterprise, because the Governments of the several Provinces have already as much as they can do to provide for those actually insane. Doubtless, however, if once started by private benevolence and brought to a successful issue State aid would not be wanting to help the good work along.

Last, but certainly not least, of the wants to which I would call attention is the abolition of political patronage in the matter of hospital appointments and the administration of hospital affairs. The "spoils doctrine" which decrees that "office is a reward for political service" has done much to keep down the record of scientific work done in Canadian hospitals for the insane. Merit has had little weight, especially in Ontario, as against "political pull," and the consequence is that almost two-thirds of our existing asylums are directed by superintendents destitute of special training prior to their appointment. That men taken from the ranks of the general profession do sometimes prove themselves admirable asylum officials, I do not dispute. But what I do maintain is that the principle is wrong. To subject the care of the insane to political purposes is a flagrant injustice to the patients, who should be afforded the best possible chance for recovery; to the taxpayer, who should receive the best value for the money he pays for their support; and to deserving juniors who are thereby debarred from all chance of promotion. Superintendents are made, not born, and it requires years of conscientious study to acquire a knowledge of how to deal satis-