

much to heal the wounds of the brain, and break down the barriers between the mind and body. The venerable Dr. Chipley utters these words of consolation and of hope:—

"There is, in fact, a power in man to prevent or control insanity, and it fails chiefly when it has been misdirected in the earlier periods of life. This power is rarely efficient unless it has been developed and strengthened by education; and hence the poor and unschooled are the greatest sufferers from the most terrible of all human afflictions. For example, the educated and the uninstructed are alike the subjects of illusions; but the trained mind of one will recognize their true character, and adopt suitable measures to correct the morbid condition on which they depend; while the other, unable to reason, will accept them as real. The illusions may be precisely the same, yet the one subject is sane, and the other insane. The difference is in the organ of self-control. Vagaries intrude themselves upon all minds, but the man of self-control represses them, and seeks fresh impressions from without—the weak man yields to them, and is lost."

Let our children be brought up in sound and healthful habits of mind and body. Let us rein in the passions that would enslave us. Let us not flee the wretched lunatic as one accursed of God, the object of curiosity or of horror; but rather enfold him in the arms of a charity and a sweet compassion, whose great Exemplar did not disdain to "heal the sick."—(*Grissom, in Virginia Medical Monthly.*)

**THE COUNTRY DOCTOR.**—The "country doctor" has comparatively few advantages; for while his practice embraces the whole range of medical and surgical service, his opportunities for outside aid and improvement are meagre and limited. His resources are his self-reliant skill and faculty, his native good sense and good judgment, and what there is in him of heroic worth and virtue. With no ready chance for mutual consent, he stands alone; and he must of necessity be plucky, sharp of observation, cautious, yet with quick sense of apprehension. He must be capable of acting at once, of doing the right thing at the right time, and of doing it as per-

fectly as possible. A human life hangs in the balance, and with what of courage, insight, and ability there is in him, he must wrestle alone with the danger. Circumstances and exigencies like these ripen his native qualities, and bring him occasions which test the temper of his mental fibre as well as his firmness and force of character.

Then, again, this work, with all its demands and difficulties, comes under the immediate notice of every one. The country practitioner goes at once to the front, to be seen and known of all. His qualities as a man, his capability to perform successfully the duties of his calling, will be sharply criticised by all. The people among whom he dwells belong mostly to that great middle class which holds together the extremes of society; intelligent people, capable of forming correct judgments. Before such judges stands the "country doctor," and there is no chance for hiding behind subterfuges, or for shirking responsibilities. No petty artifices will excuse blunders or stupidity; sharp eyes follow him everywhere, constantly observing, and discerning "what manner of man he is."

Dr. Samuel Johnson, in his criticism on Dr. Akenside, the poet, says, "A physician in a great city seems to be the mere plaything of fortune; his degree of reputation is for the most part totally casual. They that employ him know not his deficiencies." In the country the case is far different. There the analysis of character and ability is more complete; for there that distinction is less which comes from position and wealth; and every one, rich or poor, man or woman, counts at a full rate in the expression of opinions.

But an attractive feature of country practice grows out of the free, yet respectful, intercourse, which constitutes one of the main sources of pleasure and help of country life. Known by every one, if intelligent and educated, possessing a warm heart and generous sympathies, "the country doctor" gains respect, esteem, and love. He, in turn, learns to know his people—even better than they know themselves. He knows them from birth— "knows what stock they are made of," knows their constitution, their habits of life, their special and moral qualities, and their secrets, too.