

THE PREVENTION OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASES.

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The role of preventive medicine has probably made greater strides during the last twenty-five years than in any similar period of time and judging from present view-points the practice of medicine of the future will, to a great extent, be the prevention and eradication of those conditions which tend to predispose to or produce disease in or of the human organism. In the future of medicine the mere combating and removal of disease must play increasingly a more and more subordinate part. It is now generally recognized that most if not all diseases can be prevented and it is possible to remove the causes where recognized long before disease begins. In the removal and eradication of these causes the problems of hygiene and sanitation occupy the foreground. One has only to note what is being done at the present time not only by members of the medical profession as such but more particularly by health boards and other organizations representing not only localized communities but also those of state, national and international scope.

Take for example the single question of tuberculosis. At the recent opening of the tenth annual meeting of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, Dr. Charles Hatfield, one of the directors, reported that there were more than 2,500 anti-tuberculosis agencies