

better results to the human race, than that in any other department of internal medicine. Too little stress has been laid on the importance of clinical teaching, especially in the early stages of these troubles, by those who have written on the subject, and I firmly believe that had these diseases been taught in the past with as much care and attention as has been given to diseases of the heart or lungs, for example, neurology, as well as psychology, would have been greatly benefited, and the changes now being brought about would long ago have been accomplished. Better clinical instruction would have led to the active treatment of these cases in the early stages, instead of waiting until the boundary line of insanity was crossed, a most important consideration, since it would have demonstrated that in a large proportion of cases an attack of insanity would have been prevented.

It is especially towards this latter aspect of the question that I would like to direct your attention. Having for many years devoted my entire attention to neurology, to which these functional nervous troubles yield an important quota, I am convinced, from actual experience, that early treatment has resulted in the restoration to health of a very large percentage of these cases and prevented an attack of insanity.

As the benefit to be derived from such wards was discussed in the recent paper referred to, may I be pardoned for reproducing the summary there given.

“With one or more of such wards in operation, the first object aimed at, *viz.*, the alleviation of suffering in the poor, by proper hospital treatment for their disease, would be attained. In addition to this, there would result, at least, the following:—

(1) Better facilities for clinical instruction to the medical student. Here the student could be shown these cases in his daily round of work, and be able to study these diseases of the brain, just as he studies in a neighboring ward diseases of the heart or of the lungs. He would learn to give the same attention to disease in this one organ, as he now gives to diseases in all the other organs, and the importance of the study would be brought home to him in a way, which is at present impossible. He would realize the importance of active treatment in these cases, and his responsibility in allowing them to pass over the boundary line of insanity without adequate treatment. The study of these cases in their early stages would also enable him to recognize such conditions in private practice, and to take such steps, as may save a mind