

cases admitted, the immediate danger of insanity was averted, a result which can, without difficulty, be reduplicated under similar circumstances in any general hospital when the cases come under treatment sufficiently early. No accident has occurred since the inception of these wards; there is no red tape in regard to admission; no difficulty in regard to detention, and finally, no stigma from being treated with the insane, which the laity so much dread. Again, and perhaps most important of all, clinical instruction has been given in these wards during the past winter. The house staff, the students and the nurses have all referred in warm terms to the value of their experience from the observation and study of these cases.

There now remains one other point to which I would like to direct your attention, and this is in regard to a suggestion which has been made to treat these cases in a psychiatric hospital. The attempt to do this would, I firmly believe, be a grievous mistake. Every alienist is well aware of the difficulty in getting the acute cases of insanity under treatment at an early date, owing to the prejudice of friends to have a near relative treated among the insane. How much greater then would be the prejudice when the patient was as yet suffering from nervous disease only! Practical experience has demonstrated in the wards of the Toronto general hospital that the presence for a short time only of a patient visibly insane has so disturbed the other patients in the same ward that the ill effects were felt for days, even after the removal of the patient from the building. Again, the influence of suggestion, induced by the presence of the insane in the same building, is most harmful, in view of the importance of psychic treatment of these cases, many of whom fear they will themselves become insane, and this fear would thus be kept constantly before them. If further practical results are desired, I may mention the last report of that most excellent department of the Albany Hospital, Pavilion F. The fifth report of this pavilion shows that only 2 per cent of the total cases admitted suffered from neurasthenia. Any attempt, therefore, to treat functional nervous disease in the same department of a hospital as the insane, will, I am assured, result practically in failure, and the nervous patients will return to the general medical wards of the hospital as of yore.