

but to direct the other officials how to avoid making errors in their forms.

There is no other province in the Dominion or State in the Union where it is so easy to commit a patient to the state institution as here, and therefore I think that many of these errors are inexcusable. A common fault is to send a patient along with only the medical certificate. Now, no patient is committed by the medical certificate only, but these are for the guidance of the magistrate or justice of the peace who signs the form that does authorize the committal. There are four forms required under ordinary circumstances. Form "A" is an order which is made out by a magistrate or judge, or even a justice of the peace. There are two forms "B," which are the medical certificates and are made out by two medical men who are not partners and are not related to the patient. Then there is form "C," which is supposed to be made out by some one who has knowledge of the patient and his antecedents. This is the form that is most important of all to the medical staff of the receiving institution and, strange to say, it is the one that is most constantly neglected. There must certainly be an idea abroad that it is quite sufficient to give any answer to the questions there put, but I pray you endeavor when it comes to your notice again to secure the most correct and reliable information possible for this form, remembering that in so doing you are promoting the advancement of science, because it is from these forms, to a large extent, that statistics are drawn, upon which we make inferences that direct us in this most important branch of the medical science.

There is, however, a class of patients for whom the general practitioner can do much, and in many instances successfully prevent from falling into a complete state of insanity and being committed to the asylum. Close observation is necessary to detect those early symptoms of threatening insanity which occur in a large number of women during the years of child-bearing, women who have suffered in difficult labors from lacerations and other complications which have served to bring on some abnormal pelvic condition which keeps up a continual irritation of the nervous system and prevents a natural return to health after each puerperium. Perhaps no outward physical signs may be manifested; the patient may not have even dysmenorrhœa or complain of any pelvic trouble, but you must suspect it and advise, even urge, the necessity of a thorough examination which should invariably be performed under an anesthetic.

The chief symptoms of these cases will be mental. A gradual,