

Realizing the necessity of more thorough work in this department in our Provincial Institution, several years ago I made the suggestion to our Government that a Medical Consulting Staff should be associated with the Medical Superintendent of our Hospital, who could meet once a quarter, and examine all recent commitments, to co-operate with the Medical Superintendent and outline a treatment, but this suggestion was not acted upon. After due consideration, I have come to the conclusion that an excellent method of dealing with this subject is the establishment of a Nervous or Psychopathic Hospital or special wards in connection with general hospitals, which would stand as an intermediate station, where those who have developed abnormal psychic conditions to the extent that home treatment is impossible or inadvisable, could receive appropriate treatment until it could be satisfactorily shown that the underlying physical lesions were beyond the probability of early removal either by the natural forces or by medical or surgical measures. Those giving indications of chronicity or undue violence should be removed to the State Institution. As it is at present constituted, the class of cases that would receive the greatest benefit from this arrangement would in the opinion of the writer, judging from his limited experience in the treatment of these unfortunates, be (1) puerperal, toxemic, irritative from pelvic lesions, as cystic inflammation, ovaritis, adhesions, fibroids, retro-displacements, etc., or, in general terms, all those classes of cases in which the expected recovery rate is 75 per cent. Upon the other hand, it would be worse than folly to detain in this psychopathic suspect station, idiocy, senile dementia, or general paralysis.

We are being continually reminded of the alarming increase of insanity, the lack of accommodation, and the fact that a serious problem is confronting us in this direction. The establishing of psychopathic hospitals would to a great extent lessen the congestion, and since experience has shown that recent cases are more amenable to treatment than those in which the measures for relief have been delayed until the abnormal metabolism of the cortical cells has become somewhat of a mental habit, many of these cases could be returned to their homes, that under the present system drift hopelessly to utter dementia and death.

The existence of such an institution would also tend to keep before our minds the fact too often forgotten, that many cases of mental trouble are within the province of the physician, and thereby could greater attempts be made to investigate and relieve the underlying physical lesion. In looking over the report of some of our large State hospitals I find no mention of any attempt to utilize the large amount of material