

I shall not attempt that wherein so many able men have failed, viz., to give you a definition of insanity. It is hard to define, because what indicates insanity in one man may be perfectly consistent with sanity in another. So variable are its manifestations, that it is simply impossible to give a brief description of it that will include all the insane and exclude all who are sane. But fortunately for practical purposes it matters little if you do not carry a definition away with you.

Nor shall I venture to discuss what mind is. Suffice it to say that a man's mind, whatever it be, is revealed to us through his conduct, through what he says and does. We can diagnose the mind diseased only by observation of the speech and actions. We speak of the "mind diseased." This is not quite true, as it is the brain, the organ of the mind, that is affected, whence arises disturbed mental action. It is only for convenience we say insanity is a disease. It is really only a symptom of a disordered bodily state.

It may be difficult to detect any difference between your patient and sane people. The essential thing in insanity is the change in the man. To see that, he is not to be compared with others, but with his former self. It may be so slight that only his intimates will note it, or so marked as to attract everybody's attention. Those who knew him all his life may observe his departure from health more than will you. The insane are not all fashioned in one mould. Just as there are no two faces alike, so no two minds are quite alike in disease or health. But when a man goes crazy there is always a change in him, a change from his natural way of thinking, feeling or acting—the modest becoming obscene, the villain religious.

The lunatic of the popular mind, of the story book, you will seldom see, that raving madman who is supposed to be chained, beaten and otherwise ill-treated by the credulous world, which world will sympathize with the maniac in all his rashness till in his blind fury some day he commit murder, of which act he is perhaps unconscious, when with one accord it will turn and cry "Hang him! Hang him!"

Insanity is not one but a number of diseases. The classifications of mental disorders are puzzlingly numerous but you need not freight your brains with them. For prac-