

## PREVENTION OF INSANITY.

In the prevention of insanity the general practitioner might be of great and valuable assistance. He does not hesitate to make himself intimately acquainted with the cell tendencies of his clientèle. The strength and weakness of the physical life of his patients in all their tissues is a necessary study to the general practitioner if his labor should be successful. He is thus able the better to cure, and more important still, to prevent disease.

We might be pardoned, did we urge upon the general practitioner the absolute necessity of studying carefully the mental attitude of his patients, his hereditary tendencies, social environments, habits of life, the light and shade of his intellectual growth and development. He is thus in a position to be of valuable aid, to guide his patients in the hour of danger, and to observe the first signal of mental distress. When the strain of modern social and commercial life approaches the breaking point the physician should warn his friend and patient of the danger, and caution him of the inevitable result.

When intemperate and vicious habits are being formed and the laws of nature disregarded he should be advised that these laws are inexorable and cannot be violated with impunity. When adversity threatens and sorrow sets her crown, tis then the wise physician who knows the skeleton in the closet can encourage and direct till danger is passed. But why further enumerate? The practitioner knows what we desire he should do. We appeal for his kind assistance and generous co-operation.

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