

that they looked like the spleen of envious co-laborers rather than the statements of tabular facts. We Pharisees can thank God we are not like those miserable sinners in hiding facts by playing upon words.

In this connection, it may not be out of place to note that the Register General of Rameses II was instructed by the potentate to give him comparative evidence of the value of the work of the various medical savants in charge of the asylums. He set to work with great care and circumspection, as, in those days, did his work not prove satisfactory to this autocrat, where juries, *habeas corpus* and the *bill of rights* were unknown, he would have been minus his head some doleful day and not even have the pleasure of being mummified. His first difficulty arose in endeavoring to compare the death rates in Memphis, Thebes, Zoan or Regiopolis. They varied very much and ranged from three to fifteen *per cent*. Were he to test the medical skill of Drs. Effendi, Ben Ahmond, Ayoub and Bey Ahmed by the mortuary list, then would the most renowned of this medical quartette suffer in reputation. Some asylums were in malarial districts and hotbeds of fever; some were supplied with the physical off-scourings of pestiferous, filthy and degenerate human swarms of crowded cities, while other refuges were filled with those from healthy uplands, rural districts or rocky ravines. The regions from whence the mortal supply came could be predicated by the death rate. In addition to these varied conditions, was the important factor that the patients varied because of congenital defects as well as in respect to comparative health. Invidious comparisons and unjust conclusions would be the result unless there was uniformity in all the conditions of health and disease. The recent cases by fortuitous fluctuations under this diversity of necessity ebbed and flowed. The aged primarily and surely followed the same inexorable law, as did the epileptics and hereditarily tainted. He saw that nothing but mad-house literature and erratic comparative tables could present the absurdity of positive statements in respect to the efficacy or harmfulness of medical agents on the one hand, or a test and standard of skilful practice or quackish imposition on the other. He justly declared that it would be as absurd to apply a uniform test as to compare health statistics in various sections of a principality, and to judge of the value of medical men in each district by the death rates or cures irrespective of conditions and environments.

Then again Dr. Effendi of Zoan is a cautious man. He does not rush out and away patients who may merely have recurrent mania or