

of the masses, and thus gradually overcome the prejudice against asylums.

5. A large proportion of suicides would be prevented since there is no doubt that many a sufferer from neurasthenia, who has without avail long sought aid to relieve him of his disease, has ultimately given up in despair, and some additional grief which in health would only have caused temporary depression, has under the circumstances turned the scale, and another suicide is added to the appalling list of those disasters published daily in the newspapers.

From an economic point of view the prevention of insanity in the poor merits the most careful attention of the State. Statistics at present are necessarily scanty. The results of the experiment in Glasgow were as follows: Between 1899 and June, 1904, 1,345 persons were admitted, of whom 1,052 were discharged recovered or relieved. Between June and December of last year 260 persons were admitted, of whom 155 were discharged recovered or relieved. As a result of twelve years' experience in a private hospital for nervous diseases, provided with all necessary facilities for treatment, but to which cases of insanity are not admitted, the proportion of recoveries, in those patients whose disease would, in all probability, without treatment have passed over the boundary line of insanity, has been about 80 per cent. Granted, however, that insanity was prevented in only 50 per cent. of the patients admitted into such wards as I have suggested in a general hospital, what an excellent investment the cost of such wards would be to the Government. There is at present in one of our asylums, at least one man, the cost of whose maintenance has already been paid by the Government for more than fifty years. Had insanity been prevented in this single instance, and to the money thus expended by the Government for his maintenance, be added the value of his services as a wage-earner during this long period, the amount thus saved from this one patient alone, would more than suffice to build and properly equip a pavilion in connection with one general hospital. I shall not add further details, but I hope sufficient has been said to direct attention to the urgent need for the early treatment of neurasthenia to prevent insanity in the poor, by means of well-equipped wards in a general hospital, the accomplishment of which will add another laurel to the profession which has ever made the relief of the suffering of the poor its first duty.