

In the home the risks are greater, but many of them may be obviated. Windows may be checked, rooms should be prepared on the ground floor, likely weapons kept out of the way, etc.

In private you will have less assistance and more responsibility. The other members of the household may bother you more than the patient. There is no disease of which the laity know less, but of which they think they know more, than insanity. Relatives are often suspicious of your conduct, or frightened, or fussy, or obstructive. So you must needs be firm and carry out the orders of the physician only, and he will see to it that the patient is left solely to your management. Because of the proximity of meddlesome relations, and for other reasons, it is often desirable that the patient should be removed to other quarters, preferably some good farm house. After the acute stage has passed, such change of scene and removal from surroundings of which the patient is weary will complete his recovery.

In conclusion, little need be added regarding your personal qualifications. Doubtless you have had instructions *ad nauseam* as to what a model nurse should be, and by this time exemplify that character from day to day. But I will say that every good quality now possessed you will find use for in insane nursing. Especially will you find tact helpful in diverting the patient's mind and managing the case. You may find it of value on the very threshold, and your success may largely depend on the first impression made. When called in, you may find the patient will have nothing to say to you as a nurse, but may converse with you as a friend. He will likely be jealous of the intrusion of strangers, and not admit his need of advice or nursing. It is well to listen to all he has to say attentively, without at first making many inquiries, which he is apt to look on suspiciously. Don't treat his aberrations lightly, but rather sympathize with him. By and by he may be got to admit some disorder, such as sleeplessness, for which he will submit to treatment, and thus tact carries the day.

Sympathy you will find has a great influence on the insane mind. But coddling and a display of warmth of affection are often injurious. Sympathy should find expression in deeds rather than words, and you will gain his confidence