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NEUROLOGY AND THE PREVENTION OF INSANITY IN THE POOR.*

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MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS,—In a recent article on "The Present Status of Neurology," by Dr. Joseph Collins, of New York, he states that the progress in neurology during the last twenty years has been so gratifying, that to-day the correct diagnosis of organic diseases of the nervous system is more directly dependent upon the application of rules of scientific exactitude, than in any other department of internal medicine. Despite this fact there is no denying that a remarkable stagnation in neurology has come about. This stagnation he attributes to the disappointment of our expectations that the laboratory worker, experimenter, and pathologist would contribute to the elucidation of the origin and course of nervous disease, and also to the fact that there are no signs tending to indicate that we can look to them for much help in the future. As a matter of fact, he says that the neurologist must look to himself in the interpretation of diseases of the nervous system, and no longer pin his faith to the physiologist or pathologist. In other words, the advances of neurology must, in the future, be made on clinical lines and by clinical study.

It is not my intention at present to even attempt to discuss the broad field of neurology, but rather to make a few remarks about a portion only of this field which, though of supreme importance, has been comparatively little cultivated, of which

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