

If you will consider for a few brief moments, I think that you will see how much the disadvantages of trying to treat a patient of this kind at his home outweigh the single advantage which we have already mentioned. Think of the great risks to be run both by the patient himself and his family. The great scarcity of reliable attendants, the unsuitability of the appliances at home, the scandal if the neighbors get to know and talk of the matter, for the average person is afraid of his life of a person who is insane, no matter how well he knew the individual before. I could go on indefinitely, but I don't think it necessary, as you can read of these things in any of your text-books on insanity. It all points to early removal, and therefore I would impress the wisdom of it upon you. Neglect of this rule has led to disastrous results right in this city within a very few months past. On the other hand, I fail to know of a single instance where real injury has resulted from following this principle.

The next point is, where is he to be removed to? Removal does not mean the asylum essentially, it may be that the patient will have means to follow out any course that is advised, in which case the seaside, or the mountain, or the country, may fill the requirements. In short, a good general holiday without fatigue of any kind at some resort—better there than at the home of relatives, except under very exceptional circumstances. This is, however, only suitable for the earliest cases, and when farther advanced it may be necessary to choose a place where restraint can be used. I don't mean mechanical restraint, but simply the restraint of being under the supervision and direction of others who are competent to perform that office. But failing the means, and in the case of fully nine-tenths of your cases, you will find that there is no other place for them but the Government institution maintained for that work to which they can go, and surely to such cases it is a veritable refuge and haven of rest, and when well conducted leaves little to be desired for their welfare.

When it has been decided that the patient must be removed to the hospital for the insane it devolves upon the physician to advise as to how this is to be carried out, and just here I would like to make a few remarks upon my own account.

It may surprise you to know that owing to the—shall I say—carelessness displayed in making out certificates of insanity in this province fully half of the insane committed here are committed upon papers that would not be accepted in many other provinces because of flaws which they contain. I do not mean that the medical men make all these errors, but they are responsible for a fair share, and should be able not only to avoid them,