

few of the cases that have come under my observation have an ascertainable neurotic or insane family history, we should not be deceived by concluding that such heredity does not exist. We all realize how difficult it is to obtain a complete history of our ordinary every day cases, and especially is this the case if there be an element that might reflect in any way upon the family. I consider that it is in the interest of the State that the production of the defective and degenerative should not be encouraged. With the consent of the husband or friends, I consider the removal of the tubes a justifiable procedure. With the general conception of insanity as the product of heredity and strain, while we may be deficient in our control of the environment, we have in this procedure a definite method of dealing with a possible potential of the future.

In the light of foregoing statements, is it not adding injustice to misfortune when we commit this class of patients to the state hospital without first exhausting our professional resources in an effort for their relief.

There is a large number of women whose personal environment brings an extra burden to life's toil and grief. Society, instead of sharing the load, adds the spurs of fashion and custom. Let disease supervene and the overworked nervous system becomes deranged, peripheral impressions are magnified, reflexes become uncontrollable, and mental aberrations appear. The physician is called in, and too frequently adds to the burden and intensifies the irritation by prescribing brick walls, grated windows, and uniformed keepers.

We must admit that the environment afforded by the best of our hospitals for the insane is not restful to wearied bodies, soothing to jaded nerves, nor tonic to deranged minds. Suppose a case having a personal bearing, who of us would choose such care for a sister, wife, or mother, while there remained the slightest chance of recovery by natural means, or relief by therapeutic measures? Sympathy, honor and professional ambition should impell us to make the most thorough and minute examination of each case submitted to our investigations, before we make the humiliating admission that science cannot locate, nor skill remove the cause of the derangement, and we at last reluctantly give our dictum, that one more unfortunate must be added to the thousands committed to a separation regarded by friends as almost worse than death.

I make no criticisms regarding *your* State hospitals, but I know of a country not far away where the position of Hospital Superintendent is too often the award for party loyalty without any consideration for those of fitness, experience or scientific qualification. It is satisfactory to know that my own province of British Columbia is in this respect an exception.