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NURSING THE INSANE.

By J. V. ANGLIN, B.A., M.D.

Late Assistant Physician at the Protestant Hospital for Insane, Verdun, and Western Pennsylvania Hospital. Professor of Psychiatry, University of Bishop's College.
Physician Montreal Dispensary, &c.

I appreciate the honor conferred in the invitation to tell you something of what the nurse has to do in the care of insane patients, a subject long neglected, for only within the past few years have attendants on the insane been specially instructed in their duties, and risen above the level of mere "keepers." Yet, there is no class of cases in which the role of the nurse is of greater importance.

I shall assume that modesty alone did not prompt the confession that you know nothing about this branch of nursing. Nothing shall therefore be passed over because it seems too elementary.

It will be a pleasure to disabuse your minds of misconceptions, to raise the cloud of calumny from the sick in mind, for certainly those can have no idea of how interesting and satisfactory the work is, who have told me with a suggestive gesture they would not take charge of the insane for anything, as if it were similar to caring for some wild beast instead of our own flesh and blood.

To make my words valuable, I shall have to tell you something of what insanity is, or at least acquaint you with some of the evidences of mental diseases with which you will have to deal if you nurse such cases, so that a fitting title for these remarks might be "the insane and their care."

A lecture delivered to the Nurses' Association, Montreal.