

properly constituted clinics a thorough knowledge of one of the most important branches of general medicine. Our asylum system has not proved adequate, nor can it be made so. The day of argument regarding this has gone by, the herding of the acute with chronic is wrong, the demands for research are imperative, our duty is plain and we must keep in step with work that is being done in other countries. People have a natural repugnance to send their friends to any asylum where the stranded hulks of wretched humanity forever haunt them with the possibilities of what they may come to. We say that the psychological element is an important one in treatment, and yet in the asylum system it is the one almost utterly disregarded. We talk glibly of what we have done for the insane of our country at so much *per capita*—the cheapest system on earth—as if that were a thing to boast of; much better would it be to discuss the things we have not done, but must do, if we are to keep pace with modern progress. I am not the advocate of the specialist, but rather the champion of the physician at large, and my plea is for general medicine rather than for Psychiatry alone. Week after week, when I go out in consultation in cases of recent development, and feel with the physician how helpless he is in the present situation, I realize more and more the necessity for a more active crusade on the part of the profession at large for better facilities in the treatment and care of acute insanity.

Such patients as I mention cannot be properly treated outside of an institution; the asylum is a hideous nightmare both to friends and patients, and usually is not resorted to until the day of treatment is past. A prominent man said to me recently: "Doctor, we have heard much from you about modern methods, modern cures, continuous baths and so on, and yet the recovery rate from insanity is just where it was years ago." Such is the argument employed daily, and the layman is quite satisfied that his contention is correct, his figures say so, and figures never lie. In that very