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EDITORIAL.

THE INSANE AT LARGE.

From time to time the public is shocked by the news of some horrible tragedy that occurs in some part of the country by an insane person that ought to have been placed in an institution for the insane, and thereby accomplish the double purpose of protecting the public and preventing the insane doing themselves bodily harm.

There is a foolish sentiment in the minds of many persons against having a relative committed to the asylum. This has come down to us from the old notions that insanity was a curse, or sent by some demon. or the chastisement of God for some wrong. Under the modern teachings that insanity is the result of disease, and should be regarded in the same way as people look upon typhoid fever, or pneumonia, there should be an end to this objection to sending the insane to an asylum.

But we fear the public will be slow to take up this view, and the crop of suicides and homicides will still go on unless the law steps in. We believe it is possible to do much to lessen the number of these revolting suicides and homicides. We would urge that a large measure of responsibility be laid upon the shoulders of those who undertake the care of those of unsound mind, or who may have a person of unsound mind under their custody in any way at home. If people who have an insane person in their charge were made responsible for their safe keeping, there would be fewer of these catastrophies.

We would recommend that any one having an insane person in his keeping would be charged with the duty of properly policing the individual so that he could do no harm to either himself or any one else. This would go a long way towards making people take proper steps to ascertain if the insane person was at all likely to prove dangerous, and if so to furnish proper guards, or have him placed in an institution for care and treatment.

All homeless vagrants who are recognized to be of unsound mind should be taken possession of at once and put under proper observation. This would lessen the number of those murders that occur on the wayside and retreats where these insane vagrants come upon unsuspect-