

Col. Salmon, M.D., medical director, U.S. National Committee for Mental Hygiene, took up the subject of the proper management of nervous and mental cases. He advanced the opinion that hospitals should establish wards for the treatment of mental diseases. He contended that these cases should be cared for in this way rather than finding their way into police courts. Neurotics and shell shock cases were in most instances amenable to treatment. By proper management thousands of men had been saved to the army.

With this view of Dr. Salmon we are in accord, but we wish to state that shell-shock is an unfortunate term and has led to much confusion. The fact is that shell shock is a neurosis arising out of the stress of war apart altogether from the bursting of shells. Very many cases of what may be called shell shock have happened when the persons were not near where shells exploded. In wars of bygone times the same form of nervous trouble was found and when shells had not come into use.

Dr. C. J. O. Hastings spoke on the importance of State Health Insurance. He was of the opinion that it would be of use in this country. By paying into a common fund about 50 cents weekly a working man could receive \$7 a week if sick and \$100 as a funeral benefit if he died. He said that there were 2,500,000 wage earners in Canada, and that the loss through sickness would be about \$67,000,000.

Dr. Wadsworth took up the subject of vaccines and sera in influenza. He held that vaccines did not give complete immunity, though it did appear that some immunity was obtained by their use.

On the matter of serum therapy Sir James Grant, Ottawa, mentioned that he had contributed a paper on this subject 27 years earlier than the writings of Ehrlich that had won for the latter the Nobel prize. In this contention the Canada Lancet is in a position to verify the claim of Sir James Grant to priority.

The oft discussed topic of the prevention of venereal disease was taken up by Col. Dr. E. L. Keyes, of New York, and Mr. R. Russel, of the American Sociological Association, also of New York. Mr. Russel said that the segregation areas had been closed from the standpoint of hygiene and not of morals. Dr. Keyes declared that venereal diseases had removed more men from the ranks of the army than had casualties. The problem of prevention, however, remains unsolved; and comes back to someone or other of the well-known methods of licensed houses under inspection, the free treatment of the infected, the severe punishment of anyone who spreads the disease, and persistent education.

Dr. Gordon Bates, of Toronto, stated that there were in Canada 500,000 suffering from the worst form of these diseases, and the one that