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THE RELATIONSHIP OF PSYCHIATRY TO GENERAL MEDICINE.*

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To the general practitioner the problems of Psychiatry, as a rule, appear unattractive, and ordinarily, distasteful. The graduates of a few years ago were fully schooled in the idea that the relation between Psychiatry and general medicine was not intimate, in fact, the so-called mental diseases could only be understood by a specialist, whose stock in trade might consist of a happy combination of divine inspiration, complicated theory and ponderous phraseology. The clinical method of investigation was applied, if at all, in a most perfunctory way, even by the hospital physician, who possibly belonged to a school of metaphysicians, whose hypotheses were as fine spun as a spider's web. The relation between cause and effect was not always well worked out, although the pathologist talked bravely about what he expected to find in the brains of the demented.

For years the psychiatrist waited for the findings of the pathologist, confidently expecting the unravelling of the most intricate problems medicine has been called on to face. The general practitioner lost faith in the psychiatrist, the psychiatrist pointed the finger of scorn at the neurologist and even to-day all is not harmony

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