

withdraw from the marital relation, for sexual excitement is in some cases marked, and indulgence an obstacle to recovery ; or it may be expedient for society's sake, he may grow dangerous or a source of scandal, demoralizing the community with his queer ways for boys to jeer at.

But while the hospital has so many advantages, there are many cases that can be treated as well, and some better, at home ; or where home is objectionable, in some suitable house, preferably in the country. Most recent curable cases should when practicable be given at least a trial at home. The idea is altogether too prevalent that as soon as evidence of insanity is seen, its victim must be hurried to a hospital. True, if he cannot receive treatment at home because of poverty or anything else, he cannot be committed there too soon. For insanity is not a disease that cannot be arrested when once it has set in, and the earlier treatment is begun the brighter are prospects of recovery. Unfortunately, owing to prejudice, patients are kept at home till the curable stage has gone by.

Many poor sensitive families shrink from the formalities that must be gone through to pass the hospital door. The law prevents asylum treatment in many incipient cases until the disorder has gained such ground as to leave no doubt of their state. Precautions meant to protect often affect the patient most injuriously. The Government is penny wise and pound foolish in this matter, and is creating chronics to be supported for years.

If private attention can be afforded, then the advantages of both plans of treatment will have to be weighed. Though we see to-day patients of all classes rushing to general hospitals for every ache, the insane hospital has not got so popular. Indeed, it may pay you to specialize, for while bodily cases grow fewer, insane ones increase, and friends will be more and more inclined to keep at home if they find patients can do as well there.

A difficulty at times encountered in private is to get the patient to submit to any kind of treatment, for he will not admit anything is wrong. But this and other difficulties may be overcome often, and after recovery he will more readily forgive restraint imposed at home than in an asylum.