

and heard, suddenly recollects an important engagement in Thessaly, and with many thanks returns the wonderful but unknown instrument, and departs, a sadder if not a wiser man, feeling conscious that if called upon to pass a clinical examination of to-day, he, the greatest clinician of antiquity, would infallibly be found wanting.

We are by this episode shown the very great advance in scientific accuracy which medicine has made since his day; but let us not forget that the torch of medical science which was by him first trimmed so as to give a steady and brilliant light, requires from time to time fresh supplies of oil, fresh trimmings of the wick to keep up and expand in ever-widening circles the area of that light.

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## Pelvic Disease and Insanity.

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THE ever-increasing burden of the insane that the State is compelled to bear from year to year should call the attention of those who have the national welfare at heart to the necessity of a closer investigation as to the cause and to the elaboration of more effectual remedial measures. Investigation is being prosecuted in many departments, with encouraging results; Nature is being compelled to disgorge her secret as to the causation of many diseases; but with the ever-increasing illumination, the shadows still lurk in many quarters, and over no department are the clouds of ignorance denser than over the afflictions of the insane population. Is there no balm in Gilead, no one to loose some of these unfortunates and let them go? Must present space be overcrowded and new asylums be built?

The determination of the various causes of insanity is, without doubt, one of the most important pathological problems of to-day, and one in which the profession as a whole should become sufficiently interested to contribute what mite of information each member may possess as the result of his individual experience in this matter. It is not to those necessarily in official positions--medical superintendents and assistants in our various asylums--that we must look for the solution of this problem. It is not always the case that the product of the political machine is either by training or experience fitted for the work entrusted to him; yet we have Hobbs, of London, and Burgess, of Montreal, who, in the face of opposed