

to a much larger extent than when it has become chronic. Four out of five neglected cases will certainly remain uncured; but almost an equal proportion promptly put under treatment in well ordered asylums will probably result in recovery.

The average period of Asylum residence of the latter class of patients is about nine months; whereas the average residence of the former will not be less than six or eight years. Sound political economy and Christian benevolence are therefore both arrayed in support of the doctrine of abundant and timely provision for the treatment and care of the insane.

It appears to be the concurrent opinion of writers on insanity in the present day, both in Europe and America, that the malady is undergoing a constant and progressive increase. In this Province it must, from the rapid increase of our population, and the want of correct data in former times, be impossible to form any reliable conclusion as to the past and present incidence of insanity.

Reflecting with due consideration, on the various contributive agencies, which every Asylum Superintendent is constrained to regard as tending to the development of the disease, it is almost impossible to withhold the admission that it is yearly becoming more prevalent.

I cannot, however, in this place, overlook the fact, that the usually assigned causes of insanity, as set forth by the relatives, or the medical examiners of lunatics, in the certificates furnished at the time of admission, are, in nineteen cases out of every twenty, entirely fallacious.

Glancing into the Asylum Register, I find the following agencies assigned as the causes of insanity, during the last

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