

regarded as diseased, as vicious and as a criminal. The physician who makes inebriety a specialty insists upon medical treatment; the reformer advocates moral suasion and a strengthening of the will by educational influences; the magistrate adopts a system of fines and imprisonment. It is my belief that the alcoholic inebriate has all three characteristics. He is suffering from disease, has adopted a vicious habit, and not infrequently commits crime. His disease, which is the result of heredity or a vicious custom, demands the serious attention and profound skill of his physician. In its early stages it should not be neglected, as is too often the case. As a general rule neither the inebriate himself nor his family apprehends any danger until his inebriated condition has become chronic and he has gone far on the road which leads to delirium tremens or dipsomania or dementia; indeed, the suggestion that he requires any formal or persistent treatment in the early period of his malady is met with a positive denial. But this stage of the disease is the most hopeful for restoration to former soundness of mind and body; this is the time for friends and physicians to be alert, for *now* considerate care and treatment may save from disappointment and ruin. Treatment in a hospital specially adapted for the purpose has many advantages over treatment at home. The patient will be placed outside of an environment which has contributed to a continuance of his vicious habit, he will be prevented from transmitting any of his characteristics to a future generation, he will be kept from committing crime, he will be under the superintendence of physicians who have made his disease a special study; he will have the constant care of attendants who have been trained for special work. But hospital treatment will not be of permanent utility unless sufficient time has been given to it for a thorough restoration to soundness. The custom of confining an inebriate to a hospital for a single month, or in many cases for several months, fails, as a general rule, to accomplish the object of the confinement. Not infrequently several years of treatment are needful to repair the damages of many years of indulgence. Statistics of hospital treatment show permanent cures in from one-third to one-half the cases. Incurable cases of alcoholic inebriety should be placed in a hospital for incurables.

No case of drunkenness should be allowed upon the public streets or in a public place. A drunken person is a nuisance and dangerous to the public welfare. Although the habitual drunkard may never have been disorderly, nor in any way disturbed the peace, no foresight can determine how long he will be free from criminal intent; at any moment he is liable to commit an assault or murder. All persons when drunken in public should be arrested and brought before a magistrate for trial. The long-continued and almost universal practice of imposing a fine and committing to jail for a few days should no longer exist. In cases in which no crime has been committed the inebriate should be sent to an inebriate hospital for treatment until he is cured. If a crime has been committed an expert commission of medical men should determine whether the inebriated criminal was responsible for his crime; if responsible he may be incarcerated for a term of years in an institution where he can receive proper treatment for the cure of his inebriety. Every case of alcoholic inebriety brought before a magistrate should be investigated by a medical commission appointed for the purpose and upon its report should be based the magistrate's decision. The records of our own and foreign courts show through many years of trial that punishment has had a very meagre outcome in restoration to health and permanent moral improvement. Such a course of procedure as is adopted in most of our courts is a relic of the dark ages and should be tolerated no longer by an enlightened people. Field says: "The records of the workhouse show that it has no effect to deter men from drinking and one woman was sentenced twenty-eight times in twenty-five months." Dana states that "The number of persons arrested for intoxication in New York City every year is about 30,000; most of these are fined or sent to the Island or both." Henry O'Neill, of Belfast, Ireland, mentions a woman fifty-five years of age who was fined for drunkenness in a public court in that city and who had been previously convicted ninety-two times; also a woman forty years of age who was fined and who had a previous record of 140 convictions; also of a woman who was fined and who had been before the court previously 170 times.

In looking over our country I am forced to the conclusion that as citizens and physicians we are