

very large sums of money are made by these quacks. I have had letters of consultation, not a few, and, of course, all confidential, asking for advice, from parties who, in giving the medical history of their cases, have sometimes enumerated their payments to advertising and other impostors. No wonder these vagabonds become rich, while the members of the regular profession remain poor. The extent of their levies from public credulity, and especially from the class of persons now treated of, is beyond belief. I remember one instance of some interest. A father to whom I communicated my conviction as to the case of a favorite son, came to the Asylum, and, in disregard of all remonstrance, removed the young man, to take him to one who "*could cure him.*" The result was as I anticipated. In a short time the son was again an inmate of the county gaol, and after lying there a few weeks he came back to the Asylum, and is at present an inmate of one of the branch asylums.

I have never found that any of those quacks, who pretend to cure such cases as I refer to, have said a word on the subject of moral self-control. All they care for is their fee, and this must always be paid in advance. In all my communications to consulting correspondents, and even to the insane under care here, I have invariably declared their fate is in their own hands; and I have deprecated, rather than encouraged, any reliance in drugs. I believe that an ignorant faith in the latter is not unfrequently associated with a total disregard and neglect of the only true means of cure—*Moral self-control.*

The origin of this evil in young persons may be in some instances difficult to account for. From my correspondence with some of the most intelligent of the medical profession, and from other sources of information, I am led to believe it may, in numerous cases, be traced to contamination at our schools; and when I speak of our schools, I do not apply the term distinctively, for I have had statements, too authentic I fear, shewing that the higher class of schools are by no means more pure than the lowest—nay, rather the contrary. I have also received information from sources beyond all possibility of error, but in that general form which the peculiar obligations of the persons becoming possessed of the facts rendered imperative on them to adopt, establishing the fact which many years ago I stated in an annual report, that

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