

muddle. It would enable him too to detect the early danger signals which are so plainly apparent in the majority of cases of dementia præcox. I should not care to say that such knowledge would absolutely enable one to head off threatening trouble but we are not justified in saying that such a result might not occasionally be attained. It is quite certain at least that many of the acute exacerbations of disease in such cases might be averted if physicians could give intelligent warnings to the friends. We realize this when we see how simple a matter it is to precipitate such attacks in these weaklings, and how easily they may be steered clear of by those who understand the dangers and relieve the threatened ones of the strain that is imposed.

Take the subject of education alone. How utterly absurd it is to subject the developing dementia præcox patient to a strain imposed by our "all individuals equal" method. When I think of the many tragedies precipitated by just such methods I am amply justified in asking the physician to know his dementia præcox as well as his typhoid; it is just as important. I do not suppose that you will become full fledged psychiatrists, but there is no reason why the average practitioner should not have an intelligent conception of Psychiatry, assuming that it is simply a branch of general medicine, and he should at least have a fund of knowledge that would enable him to select those cases which should at once be placed under efficient treatment, as well as to give a reasonable prognosis to the friends.

I do not think that many cases will be efficiently treated outside of institutions, but I insist that it is the duty of the physicians of Canada to unite in demanding that the Government provide institutions where the really hopeful cases may receive the benefit of proper treatment in the earliest phases of mental disease, and that every facility be afforded the physician, in every day practice, to have his patient placed in such hospitals. Not only that, it is the right of the people that their physicians should have opportunity to acquire in