

*lapsing into dementia* with utter prostration of mind and body.

I am not personally familiar with the symptoms in the early part of the first stage—this portion of the drama is usually enacted at home. It is only when its tendency to run into the second stage appears that the patient is committed to our care. Still, I have heard the story so often from the relatives and friends of patients, that I can give you a fair account of the symptoms of this period of incubation. You remember the first patient to whom I called your attention in the wards, or rather the one who first called your attention to himself. The history I received from his wife was something like this.

Her husband is 42 years of age. He has been engaged in mercantile pursuits at which he has worked very hard and with only moderate success; of late he has had special difficulty in keeping the "wolf from the door." He uses tobacco to excess; before his marriage he was a free drinker; since, he has entirely reformed and manifested great interest in religion, having become a church member and regular attendant. Of course from her I could gain no information as to there being venereal taint, but I have no reason to suspect that he ever had syphilis.

The first change which she noticed, was that after an unusually hard "spell" of work, involving late hours, and hurried meals, he complained of great fatigue and headache. He did not sleep well and she thought he was more talkative than usual. He hinted vaguely that he expected soon to be very rich—he had some schemes on hand which upon completion would make him a millionaire. He had previously been a very nervous man and particularly easy going. He next displayed unusual irritability, speaking sharply to her and correcting his children with unwonted severity for very trivial offences. He surprised her greatly one day by presenting her with a diamond ring, she knew he could not afford it and told him so, he became very angry and repeated his assertion about speedily being known as a wealthy man. He began to buy and send home useless and expensive articles, talked in a very exaggerated manner, gave orders of a most contradictory character, and became enraged because they were not instantly obeyed. She became alarmed and suggested to him that he was not well and had better see his medical man, but he laughed her to scorn, and said he was never better, that he was the strongest man in town, and could out-walk, out-jump and out-run any other man.

His sleep left him now almost entirely. He walked about the room for hours keeping every one else awake—roused the family at very early hours, and peremptorily ordered them down stairs to begin work. He punished one of his children unmercifully—neglected all of his ordinary duties, became untidy in dress, and at table was so unmannerly that the family could not tolerate him. He spilt his food upon his clothes, crammed his mouth full, and loaded his plate with everything within reach, and ate with his fingers. His language became loud, vulgar and profane. He

boasted of his conquests among the fair sex and before his children made most obscene suggestions, finally when she expostulated with him he struck her, produced a revolver and threatened to shoot her. This alarmed her, she then called in her medical man, who advised his removal here. The certificates were made out and a policeman called in to prevent trouble. Strongly protesting, he was driven here in charge of the policeman and handed over to us for care. When he saw me he called me by name, said he was not ill, that he was never better, that he would yield to the force of circumstances, but he intended to sue the men who had signed the warrant and would recover large damages from them, and the medical man who certified that he was insane. He went quietly to the ward, and within an hour sent me a paper announcing that he had changed his name, that he was a great religious philanthropist and a very wealthy man—furnishing a schedule of his properties and putting *his* values upon them. He was on the eve of a great speculation and he sent me the figures to show how certain he was to make a large sum of money. He then gave me his medical history, ending by requesting me to send him some opening medicine as he was costive.

Now I want to draw your attention to the fact that in all of the delusions which the patient has manifested, there are two peculiarities: one is their extravagant character, as shown by his assertion of wealth and great physical and mental power—he was going to write a wonderful book, showing how every one could acquire wealth, and the other was the changeableness of the delusions when they affected his own personality. These two symptoms are almost characteristic of paresis. An ordinary lunatic is tenacious of his opinions and defends his assertions and assumptions—a paretic rarely does. While the general idea of his individual greatness remains, his inconsistencies in particulars is very marked.

Well, our friend the next day said he had slept splendidly—he had been quiet all night—and was in rather a good humor. He was inclined to "boss" his fellow-patients, but had "accepted the situation" fairly well. He was very prone to launch out into his extravagant schemes and was very self-assertive. I noticed that his pupils were not the same size, and when he began to speak his lips trembled as if he was going to burst into tears, when his tongue protruded it also trembled and it seemed to me he spoke "thick." I asked him to say "infallibility" and "constitutionality" he blurred his words very much, and when he was requested to rhyme, "Round the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran," he could not complete the sentence in an intelligible manner. He recognized this himself and became annoyed with me for asking him to try.

His face was flushed and also his conjunctiva and his pulse was over 100 per minute. His temperature was 99.5.

All cases admitted here do not present the same symptoms. I have seen them exhibit great violence and resist being taken to the ward, at other times they will protest and plead against it, declaring there is nothing the matter, that they were never better in their lives, and they rapidly pass into threats—they will sue everybody—will appeal to the Queen, will obtain the help of the fleet and garrison and so secure their release. Generally their outbursts of