

vidual in question and after hearing the parties, but after the examination of the documents that are furnished him.

Undoubtedly, the most important of these papers, is the medical certificate. This certificate should then afford proof :—1st. That the individual is insane, and this cannot be better shown than by a detailed statement of the symptoms of lunacy, directly observed by the doctor. 2nd. That there is necessity of placing the person in an asylum, either in view of treatment, or protection, or public safety. These different points, are proved by the form of mental alienation of which the medical certificate should give a sufficient idea, by the study of the circumstances in which the patient is found, and by the deeds and actions to which he is prone ; the depositions and names of the eye-witnesses are also indispensable. 3rd. That the physical state of the patient permits transferring him to an asylum, with the hope of favorable results from special treatment, and ground to believe that the patient might become dangerous or scandalous if at large.

As I have shown at our last reunion, these certificates are, in most cases, manifestly insufficient. Many of these certificates do not make any mention of symptoms of lunacy directly observed by the doctor, do not cite the facts observed by other persons in other than an imperfect manner, or exaggerate them, without giving the names of eye-witnesses, so that later on it is impossible to ascertain the exact facts, finally they do not sufficiently establish what is the physical condition of the sick person, so that very often those that are actually dying are brought to the asylum when nothing in the medical certificate would show that such was the case.

To prevent these inconveniences, the giving of a certificate ought to compel the doctor granting it, when he declares that the person is insane and should be incarcerated in an asylum, to state separately : 1st. The facts observed by himself at the time of examination. 2nd. The facts which were told him by others, giving at the same time the names and addresses of the persons. This certificate should also contain a precise declaration of the physical state of the patient.

The English certificate contains all these *desiderata*, and other differences of detail which it would be useful to incorporate in our certificate, as, for example, the precise date of the examination and the exact name of the place where it was held, with the postal address and the place of residence of the doctor giving the certificate.

The formula "C," similar to the annex of our medical certificate and containing as many as thirty-one questions, should be completely changed, because it no longer serves the purpose for which it was originally intended.