

This means of diffusing knowledge should find a place in every hospital. It would go a long way towards fostering a lively interest in these institutions among the medical men of the localities where these hospitals exist.

Every hospital should have a laboratory in which specimens could be examined and a certain amount of research work done. This would be a great stimulus to the members of the staffs and the doctors in the neighborhoods of these hospitals.

Then, again, each hospital should aim for a working library. A moderate sum set aside each year would in time build up a large collection of books. It is almost impossible for any one man to have more than a limited number of books; but by a combination of interests there might be an excellent collection, with a reading room for all to resort to. We hope to see something of this in the future.

THE FACTORS OF INSANITY.

Dr. G. H. Savage, in his Bolingbroke Lecture, and which appeared in the *Lancet* of 26th October, discusses at great length and with admirable clearness the factors of insanity. He deals with the evolution of the nervous system on the one hand and with its dissolution on the other. He uses the simile of the nervous system being like an army where each grade of officer has his own duties to perform and is independent in the performance of these duties, but if any officer touches upon a higher duty he is restrained by the higher officer, but he in turn set free from such restraint by the higher officer. So to a large measure is it true of the various levels of nervous centres. He starts out by stating that there is no definite entity, or disease, which can be called insanity. He regards insanity as a disorder of mental balance which renders the person alien, or out of relationship with the surroundings into which he has been born. This makes insanity a personal affair, as the person is measured by his present and past conduct. The factors of insanity as laid down by Hughlings Jackson in relation to dissolution are: (1) According to the depth, that is, the degree, of the dissolution; (2) the nature of the person affected; (3) the rate of the dissolution; and (4) the different environment of the person involved.

He goes on to state that it is not everyone who can become insane. We are not all potential lunatics. Some become delirious very readily, while others do not, and there is a vast difference between the *maniacal* person and the *passionate* one, and also between the *melancholic* and one who is depressed from external conditions. Similar causes produce in-