

suggest transference to one of these. Nevertheless, there may arise cases so manageable that the medical man may have confidence in his ability to treat them himself, and results may justify this course. There may be those that for some good reason cannot be removed at once. There will be cases where friends will prove obstinate to conscientious counsel. Then the physician must endeavour to extemporize equipments essential to the hospital in the home, or, better, in some rural resort, for nearly always change of environment is advisable. But this can be properly done only for the few. The plan will be beyond the many. In any case but the mildest, two experienced attendants will be necessary, and other expenses will be heavy. Above all, the relatives take on themselves a responsibility often involving human life, that hospitals are more able to assume. Moreover, it will be difficult to restrict the liberty of the sufferer, who is not sick in his own eyes. In short, the treatment of patients at home is utopian. We believe the cases are few that will not have more hope of betterment in a hospital. This means no reflection on extra-mural skill, but the management of insanity is such that it cannot be well imitated in general practice. We are not blind to the fact that objections to hospitals hover round the stigma that families imagine will cling to the name if one of their number has been within asylum walls. This, alas! is our inheritance from the dark days when people had reason to look on these as lunatic prisons. But such times are only history, and it is our duty to help break down present prejudices. The asylum is now as free from objectionable features as the general hospital. There has been a revolution in treatment within the lifetime of many of you. The odium is lifting, and the hospital idea in the waning years of this progressive century is predominant. Even the ancient term, asylum, with its suggestions of custody, is in many places only a memory. Insanity is unveiled in its true character—a disease, and not a crime. Improvements have been going on, till to-day curative establishments are prepared to cater to the preference of wealth; institutions for the public are on every hand holding out remedial care, with every com-