

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF MENTAL HYGIENE

Vol. III

MONTREAL, OCTOBER, 1921

No. 3

THE PRESENT DAY ASPECT OF CANADIAN MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE*

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY E. W. RYAN, M.D.

Superintendent, The Ontario Hospital, Kingston, Ont.

I wish to offer to the members of the Association my profound thanks for the honor given me in electing me for the second time President of this very important scientific organization. This is a flattering testimonial which I feel more profoundly than I can express.

Looking back over the year that has passed I can but feel that already the Association has been productive of results lasting in their benefit to science and to the community. It has stimulated, possibly more than we can appreciate at the moment, study and research; increased our store of knowledge in the broad and important field of Neuro-psychiatry; and above all I think it has profoundly impressed the younger members of the Association with the beauty and nobility of the labour in which they are engaged. It has created in them an instinct for the work, cultivating the spirit of research and discovery to a degree that will not perish nor pass from the land.

In opening this, the second term of my presidency, I wish to say a word or two on a subject of rare interest to the medical profession and to the public at large. Possibly it is well that the discussion of this important matter should find its origin in the ranks of the Neuro-psychiatric Association, for, after all, it is with the psychic element that the subject finds its importance. I am referring to the present day aspect of Canadian Medical Jurisprudence.

Some years ago I was called to give evidence in a famous Midland case. The setting in this case was an unmarried man of 75, who was possessed of considerable property. It was considered by his relatives that an attack was to be made upon him by the friends of a young lady, with a view to matrimony; hence the relatives of this man placed

*Read at the Ontario Neuro-Psychiatric Association, Mimico, Sept. 16th, 1921.