

On the subject of our newer ideals in dealing with the insane, Dr. Forster quoted from the address of Dr. W. A. White on the occasion of laying the corner-stone of the John Hübner Psychiatric Building of the Springfield State Hospital:

"The literal application of the doctrine of diabolical possession may have gone out and at least in many places did go out of existence, but there remained a certain attitude towards those of diseased mind, which was not very different from that born of this horrid superstition. The mentally diseased were considered, just as though they had been under the influence of the superstition, to be beings apart from others; 'craziness' was a condition which was not capable of being understood and which had the peculiar effect of isolating and ostracizing those who suffered from it. Along with this attitude, born of ignorance, there naturally went the twin brother of ignorance, fear. For wherever there is lack of understanding, wherever phenomena are enveloped in mystery, wherever the source of events is unknown, we always find fear. Ignorance and fear then have been the great obstacles that have had to be overcome in dealing with the problems of the care and treatment of the mentally diseased."

The reader of the paper then referred to the many definitions of insanity, and that the subject of insanity was shrouded in a good deal of mystery. He referred to an article recently in which ten definitions of insanity were given; and new ones were being advanced daily.

Two years ago the terms "lunatic" and "asylum" were removed from the statutes; and voluntary admission was permitted. Since then the doors have been opened to those who wished to come of their own accord for care and treatment. The removal of these terms has done good, as many of these patients are very sensitive on the subject of being regarded as insane, or being sent to an asylum. It is well to remove all mental shock or worry from these people. Even with these efforts many did not care to go to the asylum, and a reception ward was opened in the old General Hospital for mental cases. An Act was passed making access to it of the easiest possible kind. In this way none need now be placed in the gaol, and anyone desirous of treatment may have it. A physician may have a patient placed in there for observation and treatment, as in any hospital. Many cases can be treated there and relieved, or sent on to the larger hospitals for the insane.

Dr. Forster then referred to the new Hospital for the Insane at Whitby, with all its many advantages. The work of the Reception Hospital is a very important one. "I should like to see this branch of the work recognized in the Social Service Branch of the Public Health Department of the city, so that one or two graduates from our hospital