

largely diminished. If the number of attendants is insufficient, harsh measures must often take the place of more gentle ones, and the influence of other insane patients must supplant the sane influences which are so essential to recovery. With these conditions, therefore, the best results cannot be accomplished.

To the objections already offered to our present system, I might add the inadequate appropriations for the care of the curable cases, limited, as they are, to the economical provisions considered necessary for the maintenance of the chronic insane; the insufficient means for providing proper mental diversion; the incompleteness of even the medical and surgical appliances, to meet the needs of every case. But those already given demonstrate the impossibility of ever making curative institutions out of these great asylums for the chronic insane, and further objection would be useless.

The necessity of depriving a man of his liberty and placing him forcibly under treatment, however unfortunate this necessity may be, must be admitted, and since the present system fails to accomplish the best results for him, we are brought to the question of providing a more promising method of treatment for the curable insane. Recognizing the truth of this statement, attempts have been made to remedy the difficulty, but, ignoring the conditions essential for success, they have met with failure. Such a failure is the recent "new departure" in Pennsylvania, a departure so new indeed, that it had been tried and abandoned in some other States, long before it was tried here. This movement, from which much was promised by its originators, and from which hospital physicians hoped for at least some assistance, resulted in the construction of an asylum for the chronic insane, at vast expense. The object of this institution was presumably to relieve the crowded condition of the hospitals by removing the chronic insane from their wards, and by diminishing the contact of the curable with the objectionable chronic cases, thus to increase the remedial work of the hospitals. The failure, however, has been greater than the promises. It has resulted in the removal from the hospitals of those chronic cases who are quiet, able-bodied, inoffensive, not homicidal, suicidal, epileptic, or paralytic, not inclined to elope, able to do a good day's work, and of cleanly habits, those who might be

properly taken care of at home, or in any well-regulated almshouse, while it has left for the association with the acute insane, the remainder. Those who would do the most injury to the acute insane remain, while the least objectionable were removed. A dismal failure! A waste of money without adequate return! God forbid that anything that I may say should be construed as opposing any movement to improve the condition of the chronic insane! They deserve our sympathy; they require our care, and we are morally bound to give it. Let us give up to their use the present State hospitals. Centralize them in these places, and if necessary, make additions to the present buildings; provide them with workshops and manufacturing under the charge of skilled mechanics, where they can lead useful lives; make their lives as pleasant and useful as their condition will permit, and if possible make them self-supporting communities. Let us not forget, however, that our first duty is to prevent the acute insane from becoming chronic, and if we use the great hospitals for the care of the chronic cases, instead of utilizing them as preparatory schools for a Wernersville, and provide separate means for the treatment of the curable insane, the number of chronic cases will in the future diminish.

For the separate treatment of the curable insane, I would offer the following scheme for construction and organization:

1. The construction of a sufficient number of small hospitals, the capacity of each to be limited to sixty patients. Each of these hospitals is to consist of several small cottages for the accommodation of not more than eight patients. The location is to be near the largest city in the district for which the hospital is provided, but sufficiently far to allow land enough for our buildings to be reasonably distant from each other, and in no instance are they to be placed near one of the asylums. These small buildings are to be made home-like, but not expensive, divided into rooms instead of wards, with an absence, so far as possible, of iron bars, gratings, walls and other suggestions of a prison-like aspect, and surrounded by lawns which are neat and attractive. In these buildings are to be placed the means for carrying out the modern methods of treatment, baths, electricity, massage, and gymnasium, as well as the most approved methods of well-regulated