

It goes without saying that all men should be eliminated who show marked psychopathic tendencies or who are obviously psychoneurotic at the time of examination. On the other hand, I have been much impressed with the large number of cases (many of which are not reported here) that I have had an opportunity of examining who gave a history of previous breakdowns or of having had tendencies toward psychoneurotic reactions in their past life, but who nevertheless adapted themselves well to training and fought well for many months, some of them indefinitely. I am therefore forced to the belief that there is in military discipline a powerful therapeutic agency and that not only the country as a whole, but many individuals, would lose a great deal if they were denied service in the army simply because they could show a history of some psychoneurotic disturbances in the past.

The problem, then, would reduce itself to a matter of gauging the probable persistence and severity of such tendencies, which is a difficult matter. No one of course who is ill-adapted to civilian life at the time of enlistment should be considered. Those patients who have given a history of such tendencies as night terrors, fear of the dark, fear of the underground or fear of thunder-storms, and who present no evidence of having outgrown these tendencies, who are still in considerable measure incapacitated by them—all such persons are probably poor risks from the army standpoint. Again it is practically certain that any individual who is in times of peace temporarily incapacitated by sights of cruelty, bloodshed, accidents, etc., is very unlikely to have any but the briefest resistance to the constant strain imposed by the inevitable horrors of war. Such symptoms as giddiness in high places are so universal as to have practically no significance when occurring alone. If it were practicable much more finality in the physician's judgment could be given if he had an opportunity of examining recruits twice. In his first examination he could pick out doubtful cases and then re-examine them after some months of training in order to discover whether the military life had had a salutary or a deteriorating effect on them. If they had improved they would probably be