

for the medical student—the future general practitioner—*under whose care such cases must inevitably first come.*

If lack of education is really the cause, the remedy at once becomes apparent, viz., to increase the facilities for the instruction and study of these diseases. How is this to be accomplished? For some years past three suggestions have been before the medical world: (1) To convert our asylums into hospitals in the strict sense of the word, admitting cases of neurasthenia without certificate. (2) To establish psychopathic hospitals as separate institutions, and (3) to establish in connection with the general hospitals one or more wards, or a separate pavilion, in which these patients could be received. In regard to the first, much as I should like to see in every asylum a well equipped hospital for acute cases, and, firmly as I believe that the worthy efforts of alienists will certainly be rewarded in time, I do not think this solution offers most advantages for the initial step. How would such a hospital be filled with such cases as we are discussing? By voluntary patients, without certification? One can at once see how inadequate must be the supply, if only on account of the prejudice which now exists in regard to asylums. By cases from the general profession? But how is the general profession to recognize the urgent need of treatment in these cases without further opportunity for observation than has been given it in the past? Or, granted that these hospitals were filled with a sufficient number of these neurasthenic patients, would not the distance at which asylums are so often placed form a tremendous barrier to the average student, whose time is already so fully occupied? Moreover, that this distance has to be travelled to see only one class of disease is also an important consideration.

In regard to the establishment of psychopathic hospitals I do not think the suggestion is at present the most useful or practicable one for this country, as the initial expense alone, would delay their construction for an indefinite number of years.

It is rather to the third suggestion above mentioned that I think we must turn for an immediate and practical solution of the difficulty, a solution which I advocated at the annual meeting of the Ontario Medical Association in June last, viz., the establishment of wards or a separate pavilion in connection with general hospitals, and especially at first, in connection with those general hospitals where clinical instruction is constantly given. Has this plan been tried and with what success? To any who have not yet seen the report of the last annual meeting of the Neurological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, with the address by its president, Sir John Batty Tuke, M.P. which is devoted in part to this subject, I may say