

removing the strip and packing, and at the end of twelve days dressing the wound by the open method until it fills up, usually in four or five weeks. The success of this method goes to prove that the stitches are not essential to success, and that inflammatory adhesion is the principal factor in securing a good result.

SURGERY AMONG THE INSANE—ITS DIFFICULTIES, ITS ADVANTAGES AND ITS RESULTS.

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It is generally understood that for the successful treatment of physical diseases to which mankind is prone, the physician, in his endeavor to bring about favorable results, must have the patient's confidence and co-operation, and must also acquire a knowledge of the temperaments, idiosyncracies, and individualities of the person being treated. Without these acquirements on the part of the physician, and with the absence of trust on the part of the patient, it is difficult to produce satisfactory results.

In the treatment of bodily diseases among the insane, the asylum physician encounters difficulties that would seem, to the ordinary practitioner, almost insurmountable. He has to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the varied mental phases peculiar to each insane person, and must exhibit an inexhaustible supply of patience. He must be ever ready to depart from the beaten track of routine treatment, and, as circumstances arise, initiate for himself new methods of dealing with each mentally deranged individual.

In the application of surgery to the treatment of surgical diseases in the London Asylum we have encountered all kinds of difficulties, and experience has taught us how to successfully overcome the various obstacles that arise from time to time.

The difficulties may be detailed as follows :

1. *Difficulty of Diagnosis.*—Very little reliance can be placed upon subjective symptoms as portrayed by the insane. In many pain is not indicated as it would be in a sane person. The sufferings induced by physical ailments in the insane may be designated by them as an electric current working upon their bodies, detrimental to their well being ; or to the action of some deadly poison introduced into their system by someone inside or outside of the asylum precincts ; or to mesmerism, or to malevolence on the part