

Remember at all times if you want assistance your Alma Mater will always be ready to give it. Your interest and hers are identical. And now, in parting, we wish you all the health, happiness and prosperity you can wish yourselves. Fare-ye-well.

NOTES ON THE INSANE AND THEIR TREATMENT.*

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Perhaps in nothing is progress in civilization, and especially in practical medicine, better illustrated than in the great change that has taken place in our estimate of the real nature of insanity, and in the treatment of a class now universally believed to be of unsound nervous system. We cannot blink the fact that within comparatively recent times the behaviour of the insane was referred, not to organic or functional disease of the nervous system, but to agencies over which the medical man is supposed to have no control. And even yet the verdicts of juries and the decisions of learned judges are at times sufficiently astonishing.

While the change that has taken place is part of a general progress, it is especially due to the insight, the persistence, and the courage of a comparatively small part of the medical profession. In Canada this is especially true of one man, Dr. Joseph Workman, who has for a long period, through evil and through good report, upheld views which are now at last, happily in his own life-time, being extensively adopted.

Theoretically, it may be difficult to lay out the limits of sanity and insanity; but, practically, there is seldom any hesitation in the mind of the expert as to whether a given individual is fit to mingle with his fellows at large, or whether he requires a special environment such as can be furnished by an asylum or special hospital alone.

The view of insanity advanced by Dr. Hughlings Jackson has impressed me as being in harmony with sound views of the physiology of the central nervous system. He believes that

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