

times excitement; occasionally there may be sentences with exclamation points; those rhetorical flourishes may be accompanied with gestures which elocutionists might envy in respect to appropriateness; but there is little of the raving madness and delirium so dwelt upon by actors and novelists. The extravaganza belongs to the ideal more than the real. The demented insane, as a rule, seldom speak, and if so, it is usually in monosyllables. They sit in semi-stupidity on benches or in chairs all day long. Occasionally the higher intellects in this class may take the body for a walk or do some mechanical work in which they are accustomed to be employed, and which thereby has become largely automatic from repetition. In sane and insane, habit becomes a second nature.

These persons compose the larger part of the asylum population. They are designated as quiet and harmless chronics. Such scarcely ever become excited during the long course of years which many of them live. If they are comfortable in their person and surroundings, if they have enough to eat, and have plenty of time to sleep, their cup of happiness is full. Past troubles cease to worry; past afflictions have no poignancy in the present; past loves and hates have lost their intensity; past plenitudes, honors or disgraces are only as faint retrospects which have no abiding interest to such, hence the erroneous idea that all the insane must, of necessity, be very miserable has no existence in this class of demented. In fact, those in whom is mental deprivation of a lower grade still have no more intellect than the congenital idiot. It matters not how intellectual these persons may have been, and how capable they were to engage in the ordinary business of life, that day of mental grasp has passed away, and now they hopelessly and helplessly drift along the stream of time, heedless of their surroundings, of passing events, of friends or foes. Some of this class of mental negation would sit by the fire and burn before they would move away; they will allow flies to settle upon their eyelids, and not even attempt to brush them off; in short, they have no more ideality nor decency than has the child of six months of age.

The most dangerous of the insane are not the so-called maniacs but the delusional, who may be very quiet in language and conduct, but who may at the same time be hatching mischief against themselves or others. The patient who is continually threatening to kill himself or someone else is not as dangerous as are such as give no sign, but who are cunningly devising ways and means to accomplish their purpose. Lethal weapons are found and secreted; the opportune hour is sought out, and laxity in oversight is at once taken advantage of. Promptitude is not wanting to act in anyone who has a dominant false idea prompting to action. The devil may order such to hang, burn or mutilate themselves. The demon must be obeyed, as his influence is paramount. Some officer or servants have been conspiring against the insane man, it