

Another habit that some, oftenest demented, have is that of picking up valueless articles and accumulating heaps of rubbish. It is not always wisdom to take from them harmless collections, as they may find pleasure therein, fancying perhaps rags are silks, and pebbles, diamonds. However, the bed, clothing and other possessions should be systematically searched, best without the patient's knowledge, for objectionable articles, or better still keep such out of their way.

Untidiness will confront you in almost every patient. The general tendency of the insane is to slovenliness in dress and neglect of personal appearance ; and as mental enfeeblement increases, these will become more marked. For many of these patients you will have to do much of the thinking, and see to it that they are properly protected by seasonable clothing. Encourage the untidy to be neat and orderly about their own persons and their rooms, and to live like the outside world. Many of them can be trained to self help. A little extra pains at the beginning will repay you. Never abandon your efforts with any patient towards improving him in every way.

Some want to dress fantastically, in keeping with their delusions. Indeed, there are few who do not affect some peculiarity of style ; a bit of ribbon, or a grotesque hat may betray their mind's condition. Years ago they had an ugly old Queen in a certain asylum, who, covered with buttons and tinsel, levied taxes on all the subjects who visited her, and the tidbits she got thereby well rewarded her pains. Under better management she was shorn of her toggery, and was the better for it, and the effect on her fellow-patients was for good.

Disorderliness in eating is another habit for correction. Some, and especially paralytic demented, are wont to eat ravenously, stealing from others, cramming huge pieces into their mouths and bolting them. Guard against this, as, good manners aside, they may choke, and will not be the first case in Canada either. It may be advisable to mince their food beforehand. Some are so careless you may have to protect their clothing like a child's. Others you may have to keep from making a meal of the dessert or prodigal use of the sugar, butter, etc. Other poor creatures will swallow leaves,