

which science places at our disposal, and sometimes by means of a moral treatment

PHYSICAL TREATMENT.—Every one is aware that there is no specific remedy for madness; still, mental medicine has since a few years made marked progress and it now places powerful weapons at the disposal of scientific and experienced physicians to enable them to contend against this sad disease.

We put forth every endeavour to keep ourselves at the height of our mission and to enable us to render the greatest possible service to the unfortunates confided to our care. With very few exceptions, physical treatment of mental disease is only applicable and effective in cases of recent date. Acute mania, in particular, accompanied by violent delirium, continual agitation and prolonged wakefulness, requires an energetic medical treatment. In these cases, sedatives are of great use. Chloral and bromide of potassium, when employed at the commencement of the disease, have a marked effect; they modify and perceptibly diminish the violence of the symptoms. They bring on a refreshing sleep and sooth to a considerable degree the excitement of the first stage of the malady.

It frequently happens that certain insane persons, particularly maniacs and lypemaniacs at the first stage of the disease, refuse to take any nourishment. After having in vain exhausted all efforts at persuasion, we have recourse to energetic measures in order to save the lives of these unfortunates, and we are forced to use stomach pumps to make them take broth, milk and stimulants and it is seldom found that patients refuse to eat for any length of time after undergoing this treatment.

We have derived excellent results from the use of fortifying tonics and nervous stimulants. Shower and ordinary

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