

physician must attend. He cannot, therefore, neglect his surgery, for among his patients traumatism is common; parietic bones are fragile; there is a share of major operations. Indeed, the greatest triumphs of the art are in brain surgery. With medicine he encourages intimacy, for often diagnosis is obscure from inability to glean other than objective symptoms. His patient may be oblivious of pain or dumb to all enquiries. Sometimes, too, he must welcome the little stranger to a sad world, for not rarely the strain of pregnancy unhinges the mind.

Seemingly little as the general practitioner has to do with the insane, yet there is no one on whom falls weightier responsibility regarding them. With him rest questions whose decision may make or mar the life of the mentally afflicted. On him depend the diagnosis of a person's insanity, the advisement or administration of the adapted treatment, the certification of the mental condition in legal form if hospital surveillance is determined on. All of which considerations are of vital import, not only to the patient, but often to a circle of relatives, and, indeed, if carelessly undertaken, may rebound injuriously on the practitioner himself.

On these points we will enlarge, believing that they will interest you more than any recital of the advances in hospital methods, pleasurable as that might be. The diagnosis of insanity which may stagger the expert, and yet which in this country commonly lies with the general practitioner—of this we will give some hints further on, in discussing medical certificates.

Once convinced of a person's lunacy, the question a physician must poise in mental scales is, shall he advise *home* or *hospital* treatment? and he must decide quickly. If hospital care is essential, every day's delay lessens chances of recovery. Alienistic observers agree that insanity is more curable the earlier it comes under treatment. It is well to remember, however, that the doctor should only advise, advise as urgently as necessary, but let the friends assume all the responsibility of whatever course is followed. Indeed, in some cases, it is prudent to have writing to that effect. Now that insane hospitals are efficient to a satisfactory degree, in most cases it will be wise to