

such wards would be a great boon, since, frequent as these cases are in private practice, but little opportunity to learn the art of nursing them is afforded in a general hospital.

(5) By admitting patients into the wards of a general hospital on the lines suggested above, in Germany, any acute case of alleged insanity would at once be admitted without a certificate, on precisely the same conditions as though the patient were suffering from any other disease than that of the brain, and by this means the cruelty and injustice of taking these patients to a jail would be abolished. Under these conditions recourse to early treatment would be sought, since the prejudice against asylum treatment for a relative would be removed, and much better results would necessarily follow. The stigma, in the minds of the laity, of having been treated in an asylum, would also be obviated. Further, the treatment of these patients in a general hospital, by the same methods as all other patients are treated (due allowance being made for the form of their disease), would gradually lead to a more rational view of insanity in the minds of the masses, and thus gradually overcome the prejudice against asylums.

(6) A large proportion of suicides would be prevented.

From an economic point of view alone, however, the prevention of insanity merits the careful attention of the State. Since the maintenance of the insane poor must of necessity devolve upon the State, the cost of even a single individual during the long period his disease may continue (sometimes more than fifty years), would suffice to build such wards in connection with one general hospital, without mentioning the benefit to the community which might have resulted from the intellect or the skill of the individual, had insanity been prevented in this single instance.

In conclusion, I may add that the Trustees of the Toronto General Hospital, after fully discussing the subject, at once offered the use of the residence occupied by the ex-Medical Superintendent, to furnish the same and provide the necessary nurses to carry on the work, provided the Government would grant a sufficient sum of money to make the necessary alterations in the building and properly equip it for the purpose in view. While the construction of the building is such that certain objections will have to be encountered, especially in regard to the nature of some of the cases admitted, there can be no doubt that, should the Government grant the necessary funds to meet the generous offer of the Trustees of the Toronto General Hospital, a modest beginning would at once be made, which would be sufficient to demonstrate that equally good results can be obtained in Canada, as in other countries, under similar circumstances, and would, ere long, lead to the construction of a special pavilion, devoted to the study and treatment of these maladies.