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## Original Communications.

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### A PLEA FOR THE VOLUNTARY ADMISSION OF CERTAIN TYPES OF INSANITY TO INSTI- TUTIONS FOR THE INSANE.\*

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I offer no apology for the plea that I am about to make before this association for the voluntary admission of certain types of insanity to institutions for the insane. Neither do I make any claim to originality in presenting the claims of a numerous class of mental sufferers before such a jury of experts in mental science. The verdict will, of course, be in proportion to the justice of the cause and the ability of the advocate in presenting the claim. Should I fail, it will not be the first time a good cause has suffered on account of a badly prepared case and an imperfect presentation of the facts.

I have been induced to prepare this paper largely because of an experience I have had during the past year with a prominent gentleman who voluntarily entered the institution over which I have the honor to preside. It was a great source of comfort to this gentleman, and his friends as well, that he was spared the humiliation of being examined and certified as a lunatic before gaining admission to the institution. It was a further source of satisfaction that he was admitted for treatment to an isolated hospital proper, and was not compelled to mingle with the ordinary rank and file of patients which constitute the population of a large Provincial or State institution for the insane. I was so profoundly impressed with this experiment

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\*Read before the American Medico-Psychological Association at St. Louis, May 28th, 1904