

The papers when filled should be returned to the hospital that the officials there may satisfy themselves of their correctness, and of the suitability of the case for reception. If the case be an extremely urgent one, the patient may be taken to the hospital along with the documents, but, if this be done, it is at the risk of his custodians, as there is always the possibility of his being refused admission because of informality in the papers, or for other reason. Over and over patients and papers have been brought to me together, and, owing to defects in some of the forms, I have been obliged to refuse to receive the patient, thus putting the friends to the trouble and expense of taking him away until the necessary corrections were made. Sometimes dates have been omitted, sometimes signatures have been wanting, sometimes a paper has not been sworn to, and sometimes vital questions have been left unanswered. Consequently, it is always well to have the papers accepted beforehand, and permission to convey the patient to the hospital granted.

Now as regards medical certificates of lunacy and those empowered to sign them. In the Province of Quebec, only physicians who are registered, and actually engaged in practice are qualified to sign such. In other words, a retired physician, even though registered, could not do so. In Ontario the law only demands that the physician shall be registered in that province. Again, in Quebec, the signing physician must not be related, within the third degree, either to the applicant, the patient, or the proprietors of the asylum,—that is, he must not be a nearer relative to any of these than a second cousin; moreover, in the case of private patients, where two certificates are required, the signing physicians can be neither partners, brothers, nor father and son. In Ontario the law makes no such stipulation, although, I think, it certainly should do so. Curiously enough, in the Quebec law there is no provision against a husband and wife, when both are members of the medical profession, signing the two certificates, provided they be not partners in business.

In filling out a certificate, physicians often lose sight of the fact that the printed portion is fixed by law, and requires as particular attention as any other part. Here both the examiner and the patient must be designated precisely, and the date of examination correctly inserted. These seemingly slight requirements are of grave importance. For instance, in Quebec the legal name of a woman, even though married, is her maiden name. This fact, based on French law, is overlooked by or unknown to eight out of every ten English speaking doctors. In consequence, if a woman's maiden name has been Mary Smith and