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## THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN THE PROGRAMME FOR MENTAL HYGIENE\*

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IT has been stated that the two departments of Medical Science that received the greatest impetus and stimulation during and as a result of the Great War were Orthopedic surgery and Neuropsychiatry. It is acknowledged that medicine contributed very largely to the lessening of the horrors of war and to the rehabilitation of thousands of men who heretofore would have been allowed to complete their lives, hopeless physical or mental cripples. But it is nevertheless true that more than one department of Medical science was caught napping and the one in which we are at present interested was probably the one found to be most lethargic. The one fact that 25,000 men were pensioned in England because of that mysterious condition, "Shell Shock", before its true nature was discovered, is rather conclusive. Nevertheless the discovery of the generally backward condition of neuropsychiatry, coupled with the enormous demand for service, brought about a wonderful revival of interest and effort, and the record of the finished war shows neurology and psychiatry not only to have regained their rightful position but to have actually forged ahead. Not only was much light thrown on the previously dimly illuminated field of the psychoneuroses but an enormous impetus has been given to the study of mental life and its abnormalities.

It is true that even previous to the outbreak of war, the evidences of new life were beginning to appear in mental medicine. Mr. Clifford

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