

attendant, a board at different periods of the year, say every three months, at the lunatic asylums, for the purpose of examining into the mental state of the patients, discharging those whom they found fit to be discharged, and returning to prison those that should be returned for trial. And I hope, for the sake of medical attendants, of proprietors of asylums, who are exposed to unjust criticisms though they were very saints—and above all, for the sake of the insane themselves—that whatever legislation may take place on the subject I have treated of, that these particulars will not be lost sight of; and that the law may accurately define the exact duties of judges, juries, lawyers and medical experts, in all cases where the plea of insanity is set up for the accused; and that it will also accurately define the duties of experts, medical attendants, and proprietors of asylums, as to their several duties—particularly as to who shall be discharged and retained in asylums—and as to when Boards shall be held.

If, Mr. President and gentlemen, I have detained you long, you will make all allowance when you consider the great importance of the subject, and when you remember that, as men of science, we are bound to do all in our power to have humane and equitable laws, and to use every effort to raise the standard of morality and civilization—the grand standard that all should be taught to aim at, “to do to others as we would that others should do unto us.”