

sonal examination. There is the possibility of sinister motives. Make sure the patient is sober and uninfluenced by any "insane root that takes the reason prisoner." Not only should the doctor act in good faith, but he should ascertain why the relatives want the patient removed; still, that a man is dangerous is not the sole reason for seeking the restraint of a hospital. Modern English law regards necessary care and treatment sufficient ground for detention.

To gain access to an insane person is not always easy, and there may be actual danger in the attempt. It is the relatives' place, however, to protect the medical man, and if they will not try to do it, he is not called on to run any unusual risks. It is generally best to confront your patient undisguised. It is not necessary to volunteer information as to why you have come, but it is a mistake to deny you are a doctor. Deception may gain a point, but it will militate ultimately against his cure, and breed lack of confidence in those who have to deal with him in the future. Some patients' derangement will be evident at a glance, but it will sometimes require much tact to disclose the minds of others. Many lunatics have the cunning to conceal their foibles, especially if they suspect your object. Experienced men have withdrawn from more than one inquiry without detecting delusions that had existence. Someone has thrown out the hint that a man is likely to betray his lunacy if a question is thrust at him about his relations, and how they treat him. If others have suspicions of insanity in any case, the medical man should be slow to conclude that these are ill-founded. Much may hang on his decision. A renowned doctor said of an accused man that he saw no more insanity in him than in many people that walk the streets. Shortly after, the lunatic in question, without the shadow of provocation, murdered one of the foremost asylum superintendents Canada has known.

One is not expected to make a diagnosis of the form of insanity, but to set forth only such facts as will carry conviction to whoever may read them that the case is suited for confinement. The physician did not think of this who wrote, "He