

*Pennsylvania.*) The summary which is attached to this report is interesting, as it covers the debate which is at present going on, on this subject. The care of the insane certainly involves the same attention to their bodily ailments as is given to those in full mental vigour, and if, in any special case, any reasonable hope is offered that the insanity is caused by any removable condition, the operation, which may be in that way partially experimental, is just as much a matter of necessity as the trial of a new drug, or any other therapeutic or hygienic measure. The summary is as follows:—"Of six cases operated upon, three, or half the number, have perfectly recovered in body and mind; one is much improved; one is improved in some respects and not in others; one died. It is of interest to note that five of the six cases were of puerperal origin. I wish to emphasise the following facts:—(1.) That cases were selected for operation only after careful, searching examinations often repeated.

(2.) That each case selected was the subject of serious bodily disease, such as may properly be, and frequently is, treated by surgical interference, quite apart from the insanity, which is only an incident, or symptom, of the disease.

(3.) That in every case of operation performed, the consent of the nearest relative, or guardian, of the patient was obtained.

Finally, I believe that many cases now under our care and others to come, might be saved from years of physical suffering, from hopeless dementia by appropriate surgical treatment.

In other and similar cases in the future, I cannot reconcile it to my conscience to be merely a passive observer and recorder of their decline. If, in Pennsylvania, insanity is to be a barrier to the treatment of bodily diseases, it will be my duty to urge upon the guardians of these helpless ones, incapacitated from speaking on their own behalf, the necessity of taking their suffering charges outside the State limits, if need be, where they will be free to receive the treatment adapted to their needs."