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THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER AND THE INSANE.*

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Mr. President and Gentlemen,—In this imperfect paper there is no pretension of attempting to bring before you anything new in connection with that branch of medicine in which I am engaged. Doubtless there have been introduced in recent years innovations for the amelioration of the insane that might be reviewed with profit. But the physician who can find leisure from the whirl of practice to learn of these things, has opportunity to do so in the ever-increasing literature that deals with alienistic themes.

My desire is to remind the general practitioner of some jottings touching his relations to the insane; to dust the corner of his memory where lie the psychiatric teachings of younger days, if he had such, for it is only within later dates that colleges have recognized the value in lectures on mental diseases.

As it is now the custom to relegate the sick in mind to institutions set apart for their cure and care, too often the doctor in general practice deems it unnecessary to trouble his mind with the mind's troubles. His lot is thus easier than his brother's, who gives his life to the insane work. For the mentally sick are liable to all the ills of the flesh as well, to which the asylum

* Read before the Canadian Medical Association, September 20th, 1893.