

the insane, that this Christian age is free from the Egyptian doctrine and practice of political election and rejection irrespective of worth and wisdom, ignorance and incompetency, wire-pulling and worm-crawling."

Another of the minor difficulties they had to contend against was the class of friends of many of the congenitally insane who were themselves on the borderland of mental alienation. The nervousness, the low intellectuality, the natural suspiciousness, the lack of ordinary judgment and discretion, the animal dogmatism and the asymmetrical mental development in many such who came honestly by all these untoward characteristics and were handicapped thereby gave untold trouble to medical officers who of necessity came into daily intercourse with this class. In fact so unreasonableness and unreasoning were many such outside relatives that they gave to officers and attendants a sort of waking nightmare to see them approach. They were torments in the oft repetitions of their questionings, opinions and senseless importunities. Clinics, wise sayings, hypothetical possibilities, and even positive assertions were thrown away on these unfortunates, and with a patience which even Job might have envied these encores of daily occurrence were borne with exemplary equanimity even by the most nervous or even irascible of asylum chieftains. Now-a-days that state of things does not exist. The intellectual exaltation of our people forbids the assumption that such extra-mural classes exist of the stamp and standard I have described. For this exemption we might sing with vim and unction a *Te Deum Laudamus*.

One or two of the Egyptian asylum reports complain bitterly of the press of that day. It is said sarcastically that there existed five classes of newspapers, viz.: the good, the indifferent, the bad, the very bad and the vile. The last three classes did all they could to bring public institutions into disrepute, however well conducted. The personal spleen in some was diabolical; in others the motive was not so much "malice aforethought" as the existence of a morbid sensationalism in the readers who sought after such pabulum, hence it paid to provide extravaganzas. Molehills were magnified into mountains; the delusions of the insane were taken as facts; the imagination of the ardent reporter was drawn upon to such an extent as almost to bankrupt it. Medical officers and attendants were looked upon and described as hideous ogres and monsters of iniquity. Evidence which would be ruled out of any well constituted court was presented as damning testimony of