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SOME FACTORS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF INSANITY IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.

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The generally assumed opinion that the development of mental abnormality marks the limit of the general practitioners' jurisdiction is an opinion no longer tenable.

We should not retreat before the development of melancholia and mania more than before the rise of temperature and delirium. These latter, we have learned, are the product of intoxication; the former, we are learning, are the product of irritation and intoxication. Presuming that the necessary control is at the disposal of the physician, he should consider the development of mental symptoms a renewed call to closer investigation and more thorough treatment. The investigation should include a thorough examination of the whole body, with especial emphasis placed upon the brain, digestive tract, and the pelvic organs, and the treatment should extend from the administration of bromides and the placing of artificial teeth to the analysis of the gastric juices, lavage of the colon, and to careful scrutiny of the pelvis. All cases, wherever possible, should be given the advantage of home or sanitarium treatment before being removed to the provincial insane hospital.