

degeneracy which entitles an entrance to the enjoyment of such hospitality as it can offer. In Canada, there are to-day eighteen hospitals for the insane, and all but six exist for the combined care of the insane and the politicians. In twelve the present superintendents owe their appointment to influences other than their attainments in psychiatry.

"The answer which the politicians make to all protests is that the men who occupy the posts of assistants are not sufficiently qualified to become superintendents. This is partly true, and because it is partly true the case is the worse; because, if there are incompetent men among the assistants, it was the politicians who put them there. But the answer is inadequate, because, in spite of the politicians, there are enough good men in the service to fill every vacancy which may occur during this generation. The wonder is that there are any remaining, when they have seen themselves passed over time and again by men whose attainments were unproven. The rewards of the specialty of psychiatry are small enough, and should not be filched away. The injustice is not chiefly to the men who have spent a lifetime in acquiring a knowledge of the insane, of their diseases and of their treatment; it is to the wretched insane themselves, who are deprived of that experience which might aid in their recovery.

"We yield to none in our admiration of the general practitioner. We are aware of his energy, his resource and his fidelity, but not even the general practitioner will lay claim to a capacity for treating off-hand and to the best advantage grave lesions of the eye and ear, or of the more secret parts of the body. He should adopt the same attitude toward the brain. In time it will come to be a shameful thing for a general practitioner to accept a position for which he is not qualified, since thereby he is committing a wrong towards his colleagues and towards his patients.

"The ideal service is that which prevails in New York. The superintendent is appointed by the board of management, and he must be selected from men who have served at least five years in an institution for the insane and have proven their capacity and instinct for such work. The assistants in turn are appointed by the superintendents and they obtain advancement according to their merits, no step in advance being made unless the candidate has had previous experience in the specialty, and proven his fitness by passing an examination before promotion."

Nor is it solely in the way of appointments and promotion that our Provincial Governments have shown themselves remiss. The good men in the asylum service, and good men there be, are, in most instances, hampered by the want of proper equipment and the paucity of the medical staff employed. It is the duty of the State to aid in every way the attempts of its physicians to do scientific work. Only so can they be stimulated to keep pace with the trend of modern research in other countries,—only so can we guarantee that our patients will be under the care of ever-