

Dr. Burgess again calls attention to the advisability of early hospital treatment, showing by statistics how phenomenally beneficial the results were when the disease was promptly taken in hand.

In connection with this I cannot refrain from repeating what was said respecting early treatment in the report of last year. In discussing the treatment of the trouble and the chances for recovery, he deploras the apathy or unwillingness of those on whom the responsibility would rest, and says :

"Were it possible to have all the insane receive proper hospital treatment at the first appearance of the symptoms, the results obtained would be far ahead of anything now seen and wards devised for hospital purposes would not become mere asylums for incurables."

Dr. Burgess believes that, in the absence of any organic trouble, if the cases were promptly and properly treated—say within a month of the onset—from seventy to eighty percent would be restored to their homes; whereas, if the treatment be delayed for a year or more (which I regret to say is still unfortunately the case) ten percent would be a good record of recoveries.

To disseminate and make known to the world the vital importance of this fact, on which there is not the slightest difference of opinion among the advanced alienists of the age, seems to us an absolute duty devolving upon all who are interested in work of this kind.

As intimated in our last year's report, our contract with the Government expires next July, and it will be necessary to make new arrangements for the future. Having this in view, a sub-committee was appointed some months ago to take up this question, and, after a number of meetings, arrived at the conclusion that the two most important points to be considered in the negotiations were :

- 1st. A substantial increase in the rate per capita for maintenance.
- 2nd. The erection of a new building for the exclusive use of idiots.

As you know, we receive from the Government One Hundred and Sixteen Dollars (\$116) per annum per capita—a sum totally inadequate when all the requirements of the Government are complied with—and our Medical Superintendent and Managing Committee are particularly scrupulous in seeing that all these conditions are fulfilled.