

HOSPITAL TREATMENT AND SOME CASES IN PRACTICE.

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ELBERT HUBBARD has said that the Sanitarium bacillus is abroad in the land. This is an apt way of expressing the appreciation which the public is gradually experiencing as their knowledge of the private hospital is becoming more extensive. It has long been recognized that the private institution for the treatment of nervous diseases possesses advantages rarely found in connection with our large public hospitals. But in Canada the development of the private surgical home is a later movement. After one year's experience in our Burrard Sanitarium Hospital, with a success far beyond our expectations, I wish, through the medium of this article, to offer encouragement to those of our profession who have written letters of inquiry, and to point out a few of the advantages of such private hospitals. It is not necessary to say that the present status of medical science demands that hospital accommodation be within the reach of all centres of population of more than a few thousand, should they be without such accommodation. In the smaller places the private hospital, conducted by the leading medical man, is the ideal institution. Even in villages the private hospital can be made a success. I know of a little place in Washington, of not more than eight hundred, in which an enterprising young M.D. has conducted a private hospital most successfully. Having practised in Ontario some years ago I can give names of a dozen similar places in which a fully qualified M.D., and this includes our acquaintance with modern surgery, could successfully conduct a private hospital. The advantages of the private over the public institutions are many. The privacy which can be maintained; the more perfect control which can be had over both nurses and patients. We gain our patronage as much by some personal quality as by our skill. The private hospital being the external materialization of the surgeon's personality, will necessarily be a more suitable environment than any other institution planned and managed by another. The dominant mentality of one or two strong persons working in harmony with the nursing staff, in perfect unison, with no opposing psychic currents, is a factor of no small moment, and a matter which must be given a great consideration in the management of severe cases, especially those in which the neurotic element is dominant. This ideal environment is impossible where Dr. A. refuses to speak to Dr. B., or where a nurse