

There is another matter on which I wish to speak very briefly before I close. For many years there has been a great deal of friction about the admission of cases of acute mania to the asylums. Every medical man, except those in the immediate locality where there are asylums, knows about the delay that occurs before a patient can be got into an asylum, no matter how urgent the case may be. The regulations that are in force provide that a medical man in whose practice a case of insanity arises must apply for a formal application or history paper, which must be filled in and sent to the medical superintendent. If the patient has means for his support, a form of bond is furnished, which must be filled in and sent to the bursar before the medical certificates are issued. If the patient lives fifty miles or further from the asylum, even if the papers are executed immediately on their arrival at each end, the delay by their transmission both ways in the mails will cover from seven to twelve days or longer. In any case of acute mania this state of things is wholly wrong and surely unnecessary.

The regulations require to be looked into and amended in the interests of the general public. All the necessary forms for the committal of the patient to the asylum should be procurable at once, and in some central place in every county, without having to wait days and days for the delivery by mail of, first a history paper, later on a bond, and, by and by, the blank medical certificates. Meanwhile, the friends, unaccustomed to the care of such a case, reach a state of mind scarcely more sane than that of the patient himself. I beg to suggest that a strong committee of this Association be appointed to consider this matter and to confer with the proper authorities in order to obtain some redress. It might be urged against this that the depriving of a man of his liberty should not be too easy of accomplishment. This objection cannot apply because it is not desired to make any important change in the papers for admission, and the persons who now pass judgment upon the case will still do so. The needless delay, due to the transmission of the necessary papers by mail, can and must be terminated.

From year to year from this chair reference has been made to the desirability of having a medical Act for the whole Dominion of Canada, instead of permitting matters to go on as they have in the past—each Province having a separate Act of its own, the license to practise medicine being limited to the confines of one Province. In view of the many advantages a Dominion Act would confer, especially on the graduates from medical colleges in the Dominion of Canada, at home and abroad, we, of Ontario, should be willing to make any reasonable sacrifice to attain that end, excepting, always, any course that would lower our present high standard of examination. I cannot say that the bill introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Roddick is wholly satisfactory. I am hopeful