

cured from the proper authorities, usually an asylum superintendent. In making application therefor, such particulars of the case should be sent as the patient's name, sex, age and duration of disease. Acute attacks will be favoured, if there is any choice. When the blank forms are received, the doctor who wishes the best for his patient will exercise his medico-legal knowledge in supervising the preparation of all of them, that delay through mistakes may be avoided. Till the papers are correct, the patient will not be admitted. The various blanks are, as a rule, self-explanatory, and require only reasonable care as to details in filling them up. As to the medical certificate, practitioners often forget that the printed portion is fixed by law, and requires as particular attention as any. In this formal part, both the examiner and the patient must be designated precisely, and the date correctly inserted. These slight requirements are important to the identification of person and place. The lawyers set great store by them. It renders the document defective if there is any doubt as to who is spoken of. If ever you have to defend your certificate, nothing will create a more favorable impression for you than absence of negligence in attention to details.

In the body of the certificate must be written grounds on which the person is judged insane and suitable for confinement, and here there is a painful laxness in many cases. To fill this part will necessitate your examining the patient, for the basis of proof must be gathered from personal observation of his present condition. Knowledge of the past, and opinions of others, though valuable, can only be introduced secondarily. Hence is invalid this certificate, which I have seen, whose baldness is relieved only by, "Have seen him in previous attacks," or this example, "I am inclined to think he should be confined in a lunatic asylum, by the report which is given me by the members of his family." What a walk-over the prosecuting lawyer would have if these cases came to Court!

The prudent man will learn all he can of his patient's past and present character before interviewing him, but the opinions of interested parties must not bias his mind nor hurry a per-