

mentative fervor doctrines were enunciated and practically carried out in this party warfare which seriously affected the well being of the insane. The pendulum of freedom swung far in the direction of true liberty and in the recognition of personal merit wherever found irrespective of rank or lineage, but in its oscillations it went to the other extreme of adopting the arbitrary rule which proved so pernicious to many ancient nations. It was formulated in the old dictum "To the victors belong the spoils." It seemed to be taken for granted that official spoliation was a cardinal virtue in all true patriots. In those territories thus afflicted were two great political parties in antagonism to another, either existing in a sort of passive resistance, armed neutrality or active hostility to one another. Each faction was governed by intelligent, shrewd and watchful chiefs whose fidelity to party led to these abuses of power. These divisions were designated respectively the Hittites and Hammerites. At times so intense was their fealty to their own friends that asylum officers, who were engaged purely in works of mercy, were obliged to vacate their charges as often as the respective parties in turn gained the ascendancy. These devoted men might be kind, capable, honest, earnest and apt workers in their self-denying labors; they might even have spent the best years of their lives in the service without reproach, yet if they did not sound the party shibboleth, had not the accepted earmark or the brand O. K. burned by party leaders into the occipito-frontalis muscle they were unceremoniously hustled out of their beloved work to give way to—it might be—incompetent novices whose qualifications consisted of proficient stunp oratory or cunning wire-pulling in "ways that were dark." To the credit of that great people this pernicious system was not extensively practiced and existed largely above the great river and near the mountain of the Moon or more properly speaking the Lunar Mountains. In striking contrast to this degrading system are the more just and universal methods of to-day found in the civil service. No political elements ever enter into our selections. We would repudiate the insinuation with the scorn it would richly deserve. Loving kindness, capacity, enthusiasm in such work, aptitudes and professional skill always determine the appointments to asylum charges in this nineteenth century and in this Christendom. Herein are we wise beyond our revered ancestry, and the insane are gainers by this conservative policy of adopting a standard of merit and fitness and not of political usefulness and subserviency. Our daily prayer should be "We thank Thee our common Father on behalf of