

his diagnosis as well as he can with the material at hand, and the course of the development of the disease will remain unknown for many years if he must depend solely upon the analysis of the full-blown cases which are sent to him as a last hope. He has not the same opportunity as the practitioner or the investigator of the infectious diseases in that he cannot inoculate an animal with the thing that produces the condition of insanity, and even if he did there would still be the great differences in the mental life of the animal and man to be taken into account. Of the bodily diseases we may reproduce to a great extent the initial and the end conditions in animals, but mind in the brutes is so different, possibly in kind as well as in degree, from that in man, that the psychiatrist has not the same opportunity as the investigator of the microbic diseases. For this reason, therefore, the general practitioner must be appealed to to send the cases to the hospital for examination as soon as there appears to be a possibility of a mental change.

The family physician can help the psychiatrist in another way. He can help to dissipate the popular prejudice against the hospitals for the insane. He can help to educate the public to appreciate that the hospitals are not the places solely for forlorn hopes, but that they are real hospitals for the cure of the mentally sick; that they are places where not only the severe but also the mild cases can be treated better than at home. This the physician will do only when he appreciates that the insane are not to be treated and cured by indiscriminate constitutional or symptomatic drug prescription.

The importance of the problems that face the psychiatrist, and the importance to the State that the problems should be investigated, are shown by some figures giving roughly the conditions in New York State. It is estimated that there is one insane individual to every three hundred of the total population, there is also about one epileptic to three hundred, and one defective to three