

acutely sensitive to the *stigma* attached to these terms, and too often have lost confidence in our ability to understand their cases, and after drifting from one physician to another finally seek in nostrums or from quacks and irregulars the relief we have failed to give them. In this failure on the part of the medical profession lies the main reason for the existence and influence of Christian Science, osteopathy, pilgrimages to shrines, the recent Immanuel movement, and other popular forms of treatment. Based on ignorance of the nature of disease, in many cases fraught with danger to the individual and the community, and mixed with error and superstition as they are, the fact cannot be denied that in the functional neuroses these systems of treatment have frequently produced cures where the regular practitioner has failed. Physicians have tried to minimize the importance of these cures by pointing out that they were possible only in functional cases, we have exposed their fallacies and dangers, their ineffectiveness in organic diseases and have sought to control them by legislative measures. But notwithstanding our efforts, we have failed to convince thousands of people, and these not always the most ignorant or undiscerning, that these irregular systems are not more effectual in many cases than our usual therapeutic measures. To be quite frank with ourselves, have we not been guilty of too much self-complacency in minimizing the importance of cures produced by these systems, even if they have been only in functional cases? If an individual has been an invalid for years and a burden to herself and family, is a cure which has restored her to health and usefulness less real because the disabling condition was a functional one? Is it not time that we as a profession faced the situation fairly, changed our attitude with reference to these diseases, studied the scientific principles underlying the irregular systems of treatment to glean the element of truth contained therein and incorporate it in a plan of rational management? Only in this way will we remove a stigma now attached to our art and bring a large class of suffering humanity under our control.

It is first necessary for us to recognize in practice as we do in theory that nerve tissues, like all others, are subject to the baneful effects of overwork, excessive strain, toxic influences, deficient opportunity for rest and repair, perverted general nutrition and inherent hereditary weakness, and that these effects may be manifested by purely subjective symptoms, in the development of a morbid condition in which the patient's complaints are out of all proportion to any discoverable organic change to which the