

are not always made by the junior members of the profession; the senior are almost equally guilty. Doubtless the latter would plead in extenuation that their attention is so taken up by their general practice and other duties that they are unable to give the necessary time. I cannot, however, disabuse my mind of the impression that with many of them the errors made are due, in great measure, to simple ignorance or carelessness. Be that as it may, this fact remains, the physician who expects remuneration for his services should give full value for his fee, and he can only do this by bearing in mind the old adage, "Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well." The hand of Justice sets safeguards about the liberty of the citizen, and forbids his being put under restraint without exact compliance with certain legal formalities. It may seem a waste of time to tell you this, but many medical men act as if unaware of the fact, and insane persons are from time to time landed at asylum doors with only an informal line from some sapient physician requesting their admission. These wisecracks seem to be ignorant of the fact that it is felony to detain any person in an asylum except under definite legal conditions, and have no hesitation in asking asylum officials to lay themselves open to a criminal prosecution. Nay, more, they are occasionally deeply offended because they will not do so. The medical superintendent of a hospital does not make the laws of the land, neither can he alter or amend them. His duty lies in seeing that those relating to the admission of patients to his institution are strictly complied with.

In almost every country, in every state of the Union, and in every province of the Dominion, the laws as to the committal of lunatics differ more or less. In all cases, however, the general guiding principles are very similar. The wise medical man, let him locate where he may, will not fail to immediately read up the laws of that country in regard to the admission of lunatics to asylums. He knows not the moment he may be called upon to recommend the sending of a patient to a hospital, and, although admission thereto is really more of a legal than a medical procedure, it generally falls to the lot of the family physician to oversee it. If through his ignorance there be any hitch in the proceedings, rest assured the friends of the patient will not fail to resent it, and the doctor's practice will suffer accordingly. In all cases, whatever else be added or omitted, a medical certificate is always required, and with it some history of the patient. The only exception to this rule is in the case of voluntary admissions, that is where persons cognizant of their condition ask of their own accord to be received as patients. This mode of procedure has been in vogue