

from destruction, a result more desirable, even than saving the body.

(2) A better knowledge of these diseases would result in the whole profession recognizing the necessity, for example, of hospitalization of asylums, and instead of the scanty number of specialists who are now endeavoring to bring about this good work, there would be a solid phalanx formed by the whole profession, to the requests of which the Government would be obliged to accede without delay.

(3) To the nursing staff of a general hospital such wards would be a great boon, since frequent as these cases are in private practice, but little opportunity to learn the art of nursing them is afforded in a general hospital.

(4) By admitting such patients into the wards of a general hospital, any acute case of alleged insanity would at once be admitted without a certificate, on precisely the same conditions as though the patient were suffering from other disease than that of the brain, and by this means the cruelty and injustice of taking these patients to a jail would be abolished. Under these conditions, recourse to early treatment would be sought; since the prejudice against asylum treatment would be removed and much better results would necessarily follow. The stigma in the minds of the laity, of having been treated in an asylum, would also be obviated. Further, the treatment of these patients in a general hospital, by the same methods as all other patients are treated (due allowance being made for the form of their disease) would gradually lead to a more rational view of insanity in the minds of the masses, and thus gradually overcome the prejudice against asylums.

(5) A large portion of suicides would be prevented, since there is no doubt that many a sufferer from cerebraesthesia has ultimately given up in despair, and some additional grief which, in health, would only have caused temporary depression, has, under the circumstances, turned the scale, and another suicide is added to the long list of these disasters published daily in the newspapers.

(6) And probably, most important of all, insanity would be prevented in a very large portion of cases.

From an economic point of view the prevention of insanity in the poor merits the careful attention of the state. If insanity were prevented in only 50 per cent. of the patients admitted into such wards as I have suggested in a general hospital, who, without this treatment would have become insane, what an excellent investment such wards would be to