

taught thoroughly. Faulty training in the essentials is caused by trying to do too much. That only so much of the special branches can be given as to make them safe practitioners, not immature specialists.

It is desirable that every practitioner should know many things about his relation to society at large, to allied professions and their problems, to organize charities and their activities, and the business methods of his own profession. However, these topics should not be introduced into the medical curriculum, they are part of the postgraduate education, which every physician should feel it his duty to acquire.

The need of unloading and correlation is a most pressing one, and it is our duty as an association of medical colleges to point that way.

The complex question of a hospital or clinical year has been under discussion for some time by this and other associations. That the student needs more extended clinical experience before beginning the practise of his profession is conceded by all. There is not the same unanimity of opinion as to the advisability of making a clinical year obligatory or whether it should be demanded by the colleges for the degree of M.D. or by the states as a requirement for the right to practise.

Before a decision can be reached many administrative and pedagogic questions must be answered. As the necessary data have not been gathered, this association should cooperate with other bodies in making a collective investigation of the subject. As a large percentage of medical graduates now voluntarily take one or more years of hospital internship I believe the first step should be to give both academic and legal recognition to this postgraduate training.

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THE PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC AND THE COMMUNITY¹

THE increasing interest shown in the study of human activities is one of the most significant and hopeful signs of our times. Momentous as was the impulse given to science by Copernicus, Galileo and Newton one result of their investigations was to direct attention to a universe in which human beings were considered to be merely passive observers of natural phenomena. So absorbed did man become in formulating hypotheses to explain a theoretical universe of which he did not form a part, and in delving into the records of his own past history, he neglected the study of present activities. At last the course of events warned him that the lessons of remembrance or the hypertrophied historical sense had become "a malady from which men suffer."

The dedication of a psychiatric clinic is an event of more than ordinary importance to a community, as it marks the awakening of intelligent interest in man, as an active thinking being. Having striven for centuries to improve the methods for recording his fanaticisms, superstitions, sins of omission and of commission, and failures to adjust life to meet new conditions, he has begun at last to take rational measures to improve his lot, and to acquaint himself with the laws on which the social organism rests. As the value of this benefaction to the community will depend directly upon the intelligent use of resources and energy made available for rendering more effective service to humanity, may we not profitably devote a few moments in attempting to formulate some of the problems to the solution of which this clinic is dedicated. Errors in judgment committed now, in

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estimating the scope and the character of the investigations to be carried on in this building, might defeat the efforts of those upon whom the responsibility of equalizing opportunity and achievement must fall.

This clinic, in a peculiarly distinctive manner, typifies the human as well as the humane spirit of the twentieth century. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the physical sciences had succeeded in breaking away from the traditions and superstitions which had hampered their development. Astronomy had been divorced from astrology, chemistry from alchemy, and the foundations of geology had actually been laid. In the nineteenth century the renaissance of the biological sciences was accompanied by the formulation and expression of a rational idea of man's position in cosmos. Towards the close of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century a few investigators had already called attention to the importance of studying the activities of human beings; but not until the second half of the last century was there any realization of the fact that the most interesting phenomena of the universe for human beings to study were their own activities. How do we live, move and have our being?

To the lay mind the term psychiatry often suggests a very limited field in medical science, but those who take an active part in the work of this clinic will easily appreciate that they are engaged in attempting to find the solution of problems of far greater importance than any relating merely to the care of patients suffering from mental or nervous disorder. Anomalies of thought and conduct are studied in order that the knowledge acquired may be applied directly to making life for the majority of persons pleasanter and more effective. Institutions of this character are intended primarily for the study of

human nature along broad biological lines.

We are justified in considering disease as an analytical process which reduces to a comprehensive form the complex activities we designate collectively as health. An intimate knowledge of abnormal states of mind and body is, as Pinel affirmed, a key that unlocks the secrets of human history. By making use of nature's contrast of functions we may also gain an insight into that continuous process of adjustment we call life. From the study of disease the facts have been gathered for the foundations upon which modern preventive medicine has been established, and through it a new meaning has been given to life and greater efficiency in thought and action to those who profit by the lessons of science. For centuries the different parts of the body have been studied by physicians, and a knowledge of the structure and function of the separate parts has been attained. It is essential, if we are to comprehend the fundamental mechanisms of response of the organism, that we familiarize ourselves with the laws which govern the relationship of all these organs as they are expressed in each individual, and we must accustom ourselves to study man as a living organism.

Living beings have the capacity of expressing their integral unity as individuals, and in the case of man there are special mechanisms of adjustment, collectively designated as the personality. The complex adjustments synthesized in the personality may easily be deranged by interference with the activities of organs or by disturbing the capacity for adaptation; the chief function of sense organs, brain and nervous system. We all know how intimately dependent human beings are upon their environment. Changes in the latter call for delicate and immediate adaptation, and it may be said the problems of psy-

chiatry relate to the determination of the causes which give rise to imperfect adjustments.

A great blessing was conferred by science upon humanity when the problems of psychiatry were restated in biological terms. Life was recognized as a process of adjustment, relatively perfect in health and imperfect in disease; while that metaphysical term insanity arbitrarily reserved to designate certain forms of unsuccessful adjustment was cast into the rubbish-heap together with the chains, straight-jackets and hand-cuffs which had long tortured the lives of patients. Out of hazy mystical conceptions entertained in regard to the nature and genesis of activities described as thought and conduct sprang new ideas potent to inspire the minds of investigators, capable not only of bringing about great practical reforms in the care of the insane, but also in improving the methods for attacking the problems relating to human thought and conduct.

As the ultimate success of the work to be carried on in this clinic, more than in any other department of the hospital, will depend upon cooperative endeavor, I may be permitted to emphasize what seems to me to be an important factor in organization and administration. The patients presenting themselves for treatment are subjects of imperfect adjustments in the life process. The time during which they remain under observation in these wards will represent relatively brief epochs of life, and the records of cases will often give but cursory glimpses into the genesis, duration and progress of imperfect life adaptations. In order to serve the high purpose for which it is planned and dedicated this clinic should be regarded as an important link in a chain of agencies, home, school, college, other hospitals and institutions; in fact the entire social organization with

which it is essential constant sympathetic contact should be maintained. Only by the establishment of these relationships can progress in the study of life processes be made.

May we express the hope that in attempting to estimate the value of the work accomplished in this clinic the public expression of opinion should be tempered by charity and patience. Although the field of investigation, which includes the consideration of the factors determining human thought and conduct is the most interesting one in modern medicine, let us not forget that it is the last one to be thrown open to investigators.

The methods of investigation necessarily employed will not appeal to the imagination of the public. The inspiration essential to solve the problems of modern psychiatry will probably not flash into consciousness as did the visions that guided the observer watching the lamps swing in the cathedral or the apple fall from the tree, but it will come gradually only after patient quiet effort, similar to that which finally rewarded the author of "The Origin of Species," and gave a new meaning to life. The realization of the ideals to which we do homage to-day will mark the time when, in Goethe's words,

Vernunft fängt wieder an zu sprechen,
Und Hoffnung wieder an zu blühen.

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TENTH INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY CONGRESS

THE organizing committee of the Tenth International Veterinary Congress to be held in London, August 3 to 8, 1914, made a strong appeal to the veterinary profession of the different countries to organize national committees as early as possible in order that an appropriate propaganda may be carried on for the congress, and thereby a large attendance assured.