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the first six months of treatment, which shows that if they are going to recover they recover early.

I think the dental work in an institution is very important. In fact, it is important for the medical staff to keep up their interest in the work, to go through with all the necessary examinations that any physician would make if a patient came to him. It is a good thing for the doctor, and I hope it is going to result in a very great increase in the cures. I am a little bit pessimistic about it, but I want all these things just as quickly as we get the money. We need potatoes now more than anything else, but I think we can get potatoes and these things, too.

W. P. Greene, M. D., State Board of Health: I enjoyed Dr. Baskett's article very much. I think he has the right idea. If you isolate all your cases when they come into the institution, take your blood tests, your Wassermann tests, your nose and throat cultures, and then examine all the employes, you can prevent epidemics of contagious diseases in the institution. It is very nice, when you are called in to an epidemic, to find that the doctors have some data that they can give you. If we should have an epidemic of dysentery or typhoid at St. Peter, Dr. Baskett could tell us who the carriers were. We should have something to start from. In fact, I do not think we will have a large epidemic where it is controlled in that way. If you isolate them at the start and use those precautionary methods, I think you will have very little trouble with epidemics.

Geo. H. Freeman, M. D., Superintendent Willmar State Asylum: I fear that Dr. Kilbourne stole what little thunder I had. I, too, feel that treatment does not have very much effect upon the recovery rate among the insane; however, the physical condition of their surroundings has improved.

I enjoyed Dr. Baskett's paper because he spoke of the ideal institution. Some day this work will put us in a position where we can say something definite with regard to the actual cause of insanity and something definite as to how it can either be prevented or the attack recovered from.

The Doctor said that of 800 cases he found 12½ per cent infected with venereal disease, which I presume is an extremely low rate of infection. I think in our general population we would find the ratio as high as 20 or 25 per cent of males.

I wonder sometimes whether some of our Wassermann reactions are not something like our bacteriologic diphtheria attacks. We have no right to say these people are going to get either tabes or paresis. I often feel they are not so badly off as they are made out to be.

W. A. Errickson, M. D., Minnesota School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics: Dr. Baskett's paper was a most excellent one. He described in detail the ideal institutional practice of medicine and surgery.

The most important part of institutional practice is that of preventive medicine. It is difficult, however to carry out in institutions the art of preventive medicine, owing to the large number of people so closely quartered.

At the School for Feeble-Minded it is our practice to vaccinate patients against smallpox, typhoid fever and para-typhoid fever as soon as the patient enters the institution and has undergone a physical examination.

Next in order the teeth and gums are examined, and any disease thereof treated by the dental surgeon. Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the care of the teeth and gums, since this affords a wide avenue of preventable diseases.

If we discover any diseases or physical defects that can be corrected by surgery, the art is applied. Patients that are mentally incompetent are also in the same condition physically. The number of cases of club foot, hammer toe, contractures, hernias, etc., that enter our institution, is appalling. We correct them wherever possible.

Since I have had no experience with the insane, I will not attempt to discuss Dr. Baskett's paper from the standpoint of psychiatry.

F. U. Davis, M. D., Faribault: Possibly I was somewhat differently impressed by Dr. Baskett's paper than the rest of you were. He said very little about the treatment of disease, and it seems to me that in this age which is just opening up perhaps that really is a secondary proposition. His paper was a wonderful exposition of what is being done and what will be done in the line of preventive medicine.

Smallpox, which used to be considered a terrible scourge, has been so attenuated by vaccination that at the present time we hardly consider it a menace. Anticipating an outbreak of diphtheria—this applies not only to an institution but to a community—we try to get hold of our carriers. If necessary we remove the tonsils of the carriers, which will almost always bring about the desired result. Typhoid fever, which was the scourge of the institution, the community, and especially of our armies, has been practically eliminated by the use of vaccine. Work with the teeth is along this line. A routine examination of the teeth simply eliminates disease which will follow if this examination does not take place. I have no doubt we shall in time use similar methods with influenza and with all diseases which are propagated by bacteria.

It seems to me it is very significant that a new era is opening up, not only in institution medicine, but in general medicine, an era of preventive medicine.