ant methods. Of the twenty-two cases treated without operation, nineteen died, a mortality of eighty-six per cent. Three vomited masses of hair or passed hair in the stools and recovered.

Twenty-eight patients were operated upon with two deaths, a mortality of seven per cent. In the two fatal cases, the masses of hair had passed into the small intestine and caused obstruction. In four of the cases treatment and result are not mentioned.

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THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LAW AND THE PHYSICIAN.*

BY HON. JAMES B. CARROLL,

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As the Workmen's Compensation law has worked out, it is quite evident that the provision which provides for "reasonable medical and hospital bills" for two weeks is unsatisfactory from many points of view. This waiting period of two weeks was originally intended to stop malingering, and fraudulent claims for disability. But it has been shown to the Industrial Accident Board in many ways that when there is a real disability, it is a great hardship for the injured employee to have to wait two weeks before his compensation begins, and this has already brought great suffering to the families of many injured workmen.

In addition to this, it is also manifest that in many cases the two weeks' medical attention, which is all that can be legally claimed, is not sufficient in all cases. Only injuries of minor character can be cured in two weeks, and when men are seriously injured and require the attention of a nurse and a doctor more than two weeks, the law is entirely inadequate to fit such cases. In many cases it is quite conceivable that the injured workman might receive compensation at the maximum of \$10.00 a week, and still not receive enough to pay his doctor's bill, and that this law, which was intended to relieve the families of workmen injured in industry, would operate to bear down very hard upon them.

But in all these cases, if the medical profes-

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sion and the public generally will realize the importance of the question, we hope to be able to present the defects of the law to the Legislature in such a manner as to bring relief.

The original medical problems arising under the Act have been at least partially solved by the selection of a committee of seven representative physicians, who from a patriotic desire to benefit the industrial classes primarily benefited by the Act, and to place the medical profession in a proper attitude towards it, have untiringly and unselfishly spent a large amount of time in working out this matter.

That medical matters relating to the Act, under consideration by the Medical Advisory Committee, have been finally settled, cannot, however, be claimed. The desire for dividends, at whatever cost, on the part of certain insurance corporations, and the fact that there are undoubtedly some physicians who are greedy to take advantage of the Act, in order to get fees which they otherwise could not hope to obtain, will probably continue to make trouble. But, happily, the road has been cleared towards an understanding, which we hope will prove satisfactory all around.

When the Act was passed there was no doubt that a majority of the physicians of the State felt the Act was an unwarranted infringement of their rights, and at the meeting of the physicians at the State House, with the Industrial Accident Board, the hostility on the part of the majority of the physicians was only thinly veiled, only to end up with a better understanding all around, and a more charitable appreciation by the physicians that the Industrial Accident Board understood the rights and obligations of the profession.

At this meeting, and in its subsequent actions, the Industrial Accident Board has tried to show that it considers only the best interests of the physicians, and that in the long run, any solution of this matter, which does not satisfy the honest physician who is ready to deal squarely with this subject, cannot be a satisfactory one.

Contract Physicians. When it can be shown, as in one city, that the work formerly done by four or more physicians and paid for at the rate of \$5,000 a year, is turned over to one physician, at the rate of \$1,200 a year, the contract system, as a whole, cannot justly be defended. Even if it can be shown that the contract system of treating injured employees may work out satisfactorily in rare cases, as a rule it is bound to create trouble. The injured workmen will not, in the majority of cases, receive as satisfactory or skilful treatment, and even the principal object sought by the insurance company favoring the contract system, to wit: The reduction of the cost of medical services, will be a failure, because in the end things of this kind which are cheap, are likely to prove more costly.

Benefits. The medical profession was benefited by the Workmen's Compensation Act in many ways. From the standpoint of money, it

can be shown that the doctors will get more for services to injured people than was paid out for all kinds of claims, under the former Employers' Liability Act.

But the money in this matter is the least important consideration. Workmen's compensation is only the beginning of a chain of laws to insure workmen against accidents, disease, and ultimately, perhaps old age, and even unemployment.

It is easy to conceive with the progress of these laws, unless properly safeguarded, they may result in the practical enslavement of the medical profession to a bureaucracy created by legislative act. The recent history of certain European countries will bear this out. The Industrial Accident Board has foreseen the possibility in such laws, and this is the reason why such extreme care has been taken that the initial steps in planning procedure shall be along lines approved by the profession generally.

In criticizing the inevitable mistakes of the Board, or of the Medical Advisory Committee of seven, chosen by the medical men themselves, doctors should not forget that the Board and this Committee have always kept in view the ideal of the future of the medical profession who, when things work out as planned, will be left free from the bureaucratic trammels and retain all the rights of which, in the progress of social laws in European countries, in large measure they have already been deprived.

Fees. It seems to the Industrial Accident Board, and to the medical men who have been assisting them in trying to solve the medical problems of this work, that it will be absolutely necessary shortly to agree that the medical fee table shall be put on an industrial basis, and once the principle that industrial accidents shall be classed on an industrial basis, different from the fees in private practice, is established, the whole question of fees will gradually be settled.

Hospitals. In regard to patients who are treated in hospitals, the present law is full of contradictions, and there are many questions to be decided. The injured workman taken to his home is entitled, by virtue of the agreement which the Board has worked out with the insurance companies, to send for his own doctor, but is not entitled to any reimbursement for his board or care. If he goes to a hospital, in ordinary cases the doctor is not entitled to any payment for his services, but board and care are paid for by the insurance company. Many of the hospitals in Massachusetts are charging the insurance companies for the board and care of injured workmen, an amount less than it actually costs them for food.

The Industrial Accident Board is now arranging a conference with hospital superintendents, at which conference charges for hospital services to injured workmen shall be determined, and also the rights of the staff physicians to charge fees to injured employees.

In addition to this, an attempt will be made to define the proper procedure in regard to making employees who are injured, private patients. And it is to be hoped that this conference will result in some kind of an agreement as to the principles of justice which are governing these matters.

THE PASSING OF PARANOIA.*

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IN the Kraepelin sense paranoia may be regarded not as a disease process but a variety of psychical mal-development showing itself in a morbidly perverted reaction to the problems and affairs of life. Or, to use the words of Meyer, "it is the fulfilment of a fate of peculiar make-up." The disease-picture, if we may apply the term to a condition which is but the expression of an anomaly dependent upon evolutionary forces, limits the application of the name true paranoia to a type of individuals perhaps more commonly met outside than inside the walls of institutions. Adhering strictly to Kraepelin's conception we would expect them, for the most part, to be able to adjust themselves after a fashion to their environment, without serious conflict, though often perilously near it.

Briefly stated, as I understand them, the characteristics of true paranoia are delusions representing an unfolding and elaboration of thought processes normal to the make-up of the individual, distinguished by a perverted but clear logic, contact with reality, and originating from actual occurrences; a chronic, incurable course, unyielding faith in, though not necessarily fixity of, the delusions; absence of intellectual impairment and perfect retention of the integrity of the personality.

Upon this hypothesis the task of classifying the true paranoiacs among the insane in institutions is beset with extreme difficulties and perplexities. To determine with any assurance of correctness a diagnosis of this kind in the early stages of a psychosis, one needs not only a clear insight into the nature of this abnormality of mental make-up, a knowledge of the changed opinions on the problem, the variety and number of which indicate they are but stages on the road to a more complete understanding of the subject, but also hindsight and foresight beyond the ordinary endowment of mortals. In determining the existence and value of a peculiar trend arising from make-up as a factor, and in prejudging and fortelling the absence of intellectual impairment and the retention of the integrity of the personality in advance of the prolonged and chronic paranoiac career, the prac-

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