

## SOME ASYLUM ACCOMMODATION FOR TORONTO.

The Government has decided to remove the asylum from Queen Street, Toronto, to Whitby. This will leave Toronto without asylum accommodation nearer than Whitby, as the asylum at Mimico does not admit from the city. This seems to use to be too radical a change.

We agree with the policy of having the asylums located on a large area of land where the patients can be kept out of doors, and engaged in healthful occupations. They can be employed to raise most of what they consume.

But we must not overlook several other very important questions. In the first place, there are always cases that require prompt, indeed, immediate commitment. The securing of papers from Whitby and the sending of the patients there will involve a delay that will be very inconvenient, and, in some cases, positively dangerous.

Then, there are many cases that should be under observation for a time. They may be allowed out in a few weeks or months, or they may become chronics, when they could be sent on to Whitby. These are observation cases. There are some that could go at once to Whitby, because they have passed the acute, or observation, stage. For the sake of the patients this aspect of the subject cannot receive too much attention.

But there is another view that must be taken of this question. The students of medicine must be considered. The cases to study from are those that are in the early and acute stages. They should be in an institution near the students, so that their symptoms may be studied. It is absolutely necessary that the medical student should have an opportunity of studying mental affections. There is no more important branch of study to-day on the medical curriculum than that of psychiatry.

The question at once comes out how this is to be arranged. There are several ways. In the first place, arrangements could be made with one or other of the hospitals in Toronto for the establishment of psychiatric wards. This should be in a separate building. The new general and the Western hospitals could furnish the land.

Another way, and a better one, would be that of securing a few acres of land near the city, and on a car line, and on this to erect a suitable building for say at least one hundred patients. The students could reach this building easily by the cars. An institution with accommodation for less than one hundred should not be thought of for a moment for a city the size of Toronto. There would always be acute cases sufficient in numbers to fill it.

Then comes the providing of the means. This should be done