

Our readers will agree with us that the foregoing communication is creditable to all parties concerned, and will experience from its perusal a feeling of enhanced confidence in the management of a line which is so judiciously conducted as is that of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. Our engraving is from a photograph executed by Notman & Fraser.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, TORONTO.

The Hospital acting, as its name implies, as *universal host*, is entitled, so far as concerns its *object*, to corresponding good will. One would have supposed, when perusing its reports, filtered though they be through the medium of a government department, that the existence of such functionaries as Trustees would be recognized therein, but we look in vain for the mention of any such personages; our own conviction is that this body should consist of the most intelligent, experienced, and liberally-minded men within reach. Inasmuch as we have no guarantee that "wisdom will die" with any existing medical school, and we possess much evidence of human suffering and death from lack of professional knowledge, breadth of view, as a qualification for Trusteeship we regard as indispensable. Assuming the Trustees of the hospital in question, to possess these qualities, we venture to consider their relation to the institution of far greater moment than is that of any government functionary. We may add that the work of issuing reports of Hospitals is, in our opinion, widely apart from the province of a Government Department. One outcome of the present arrangement is that we have a twofold report issued in the same volume, the former being of a general character, and the other styled a "separate inspection report," both of them bearing the signature of the Official Inspector. These reports promulge some ugly statements, and suggest inferences of a graver character. The first which appears to require comment relates to the number of *incurables* in the hospital. Such an institution is obviously no place for *them*. It is equally evident that they occupy the room of those whose case admits of cure. When speaking of the state of the wards, &c., the Inspector "damns with such faint praise" as the following:—"The condition was much better than I had found it at any previous visit, in fact, *with the exception of the bathing rooms and closet*, the Hospital, *at this visit*, was found in admirable order." We venture to opine that exceptions of such a character invalidate the rule. Again, "The supply of water *continues* to be quite insufficient for the requirements of the house, and until this serious need is supplied, cleanliness and a pure atmosphere cannot be had in the bathing and closet rooms." The Inspector further observes that "It is most important that the insufficient, but expensive and troublesome manner of heating the building by stoves, should be remedied as soon as possible." With regard to the patients' meals, he adds, "I regretted to observe that the bread rations for the whole day were served in the morning and left in the wards, instead of the proper allowance being served at each meal." A most effectual mode this of communicating homœopathic doses of disease to the unhappy patients! Is it not notorious that gargrene is imbibed by the walls of such buildings, if not specially prepared to counteract the tendency, and how much more likely is such an article as bread to become a channel of infection, under such circumstances? We should deem it a matter of supreme unimportance—physically—whether a patient be Papist, or Protestant, unless indeed the Government intend to invite us to study the ethics of fasting. We shall there-

fore notice no further, the official classification of the patients, according to religious denomination. We know not if the community at large regard the management of the hospital as of so "admirable" an order as does the Inspector; if it be so, their approval is expressed by an annual subscription of \$267.50. There is a noteworthy difference between the cost of maintaining patients in Toronto and that at Kingston and Hamilton respectively. The cost of food, medicine and medical comforts per patient in Toronto being 24½ cents per day, 20½ at Kingston, and 19¾ at Hamilton. The cost per patient for "salaries and wages" in Toronto is 12¾ cents per day, in Hamilton 7½ cents, and in Kingston 8 cents, but "all other expenses" calculated in a similar manner, give still more surprising results; 32¼ cents being the daily amount in Toronto, 17½ cents in Kingston, and 12 cents in Hamilton. The total daily cost of maintaining a patient in Toronto Hospital is 69½ cents, in Kingston 39¼, and in Hamilton 39¼. We apprehend it is somebody's business to ascertain the cause of this discrepancy. An hospital, regarded in its twofold aspect of an alleviator of suffering, and a medical college, is too valuable an institution to be allowed to suffer from mismanagement, we hope therefore that whatever is wrong in the present instance will be speedily set right, and that when the community has reason to be satisfied with the management, the claims of the institution upon their sympathy may be stately advocated on a "Hospital Sunday." There is much that is objectionable in the mode in which the Government aid is extended to this and to other hospitals, but on this subject we forbear to enlarge at present. We will observe, as a result of a personal inspection of the institution, that we think the patients would gladly hail some of the superfluous works of our amateur artists which would tend to relieve the monotony of the indifferently furnished walls, and we cannot doubt that the superfluities of many a garden and field would be acceptable alike to patients and to Trustees.

Correspondence.

Opinions on all subjects, except those hostile to Christianity, will find free expression in these columns.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "The Bee-Hive."

SIR,—In a journal such as you propose to make *The Bee-Hive*, I feel at liberty to give free expression to my opinions on a question that perhaps above all others, will affect the future progress of this country, (should it take effect), namely, the pending Reciprocity Treaty with the United States. As regards the question of free trade with the States, I am surprised that any man, or party, can propose such a thing. Under existing circumstances, it is simply impossible,—for once rule out the commercial lines of demarcation between the two countries, and an unequal contest arises, in which the States would be compelled to make sacrifices which their liabilities render impossible, and which their citizens would not tolerate. Let us take a running glance at some of the obstacles to free trade, the only principle on which, with any degree of honor, we could accept reciprocity. In the first place, during the term through which the proposed treaty is to extend, the States must necessarily be burdened by a heavy debt, they must destroy their tariff, and their direct taxation must be increased. In order to escape this, it is but natural that many of their industries would find their way across the border. It appears to me