

It is a matter of great regret that so many insane people are sent to gaol without first making application to our asylums to see if they cannot be admitted at once. In the past year of all the insane that have been sent into Toronto gaol (and there have been a large number), in only four cases was Toronto asylum asked to admit the patient previous to arrest, and in all of these cases (with one exception due to overcrowding), although we sent the complete set of papers immediately on application, an arrest was made before the papers reached them, when there was really no necessity for this precipitancy.

Our physicians have a large measure of responsibility in this matter and they should try and prevent any case of insanity being sent to the gaol, unless there is absolutely no room for them in asylums, as is sometimes the case.

A change also should be made in the law so that two medical certificates would transfer a patient from the gaol to the asylum as it does from outside. In this way prompt action could be taken as against the complex procedure which at present exists.

We are glad to note that the Provincial Secretary, Hon. J. R. Stratton, has introduced and passed an act the past session, making it compulsory for all counties to erect and help sustain County Refuge Homes, one in each county or united counties. If these homes were in every county our asylums could in time be unloaded of all the chronic harmless demented and leave space for those amenable to treatment or who are a menace to the public or themselves.

So much can be accomplished by proper treatment and so many apparently hopeless patients restored to normal or almost normal conditions that it is certainly very sad that all the deranged cannot obtain a fair chance of recovery. We are overcrowded by a class of patients that would be quite safe elsewhere.

If county homes would take harmless demented and the majority of the senile cases it would leave room for the immediate admission of all acute cases and give opportunity for the classification and arranging of those under treatment. It would also, if properly looked after, lessen the arrests for insanity and shorten the period of their confinement in gaol when arrested.

It would be well to see the name asylum done away with and the term hospital substituted. An asylum simply means a place of refuge, while the term hospital would educate the public to understand that it is an institution for cure.

The medical profession should educate the public as to the dire results of heredity by misalliance, which populate the country with degenerates, a large number of whom afterwards gravitate to the asylums. They also have a very wide field in