

was closed to visitors, and the practice of allowing the male pupils to visit the city was discontinued. On the morning of Sunday, October 10th, John Alexander, the boy first attacked, and by whom there is every reason to believe the disease was communicated to others, succumbed to the disorder, his death being the first that had occurred in the Institution for nearly six years. Meantime your prompt arrival with Dr. Bryce, Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, on the evening of Saturday 9th, afforded me an opportunity of discussing freely with you the steps to be taken in all eventualities, and for the suggestion of any possible remedial or precautionary measures. Obviously the first thing to be done was to discover, if practicable, the cause of the mischief, and some defective drainage, or the presence of sewer gas in the building naturally suggested itself. But this theory could not be maintained, for, although our sewers and drains were not as a whole systematically ventilated, the ventilation existing was quite sufficient to relieve any pressure on the sewer gas, while every trap and fitting was found to be in good working order. While, therefore, I rejoice in the substitution under your instructions and with the approval of the Board of Health, of a complete and scientific system of drain ventilation for what was before partial and accidental, I have the strongest possible belief, which Dr. Corson shares with me, that the disease was imported, that it had no local origin and that the limitation of its ranges to those who had been in personal contact and the immediate result of means taken to check its diffusion, affirm beyond all question the great healthfulness of the Institution and its surroundings, which has before now, rendered contagious disease—although in a less terrible form—comparatively harmless. Beyond the three lads first affected only one pupil (a boy of the same age as John Alexander and who had been in the latter's company at the time his isolation was first ordered) was attacked, but in so mild a form as to occasion little anxiety. Not one of the female pupils, nor any of the male pupils except those mentioned, have showed the least symptoms of diphtheria, but have all been generally in exceptionally good health. One of the female servants, who assists the boys' nurse in attending to the wants of junior pupils, and who was consequently in contact with the boys, sickened, was confined to her room for some days with a diphtheretic throat, and a sick nurse, kindly furnished by the authorities of our local hospital, also needed medical care from the same cause. Both have been for some time now out of the doctor's hands; the two younger pupil invalids are completely convalescent, and the lad last laid up will be released from the nurse's charge in a day or two. Having thus given a narrative of the visitation, I may be allowed the further privilege of discharging some further duties in connection with the matters referred to. I must first acknowledge the cordial support and active co-operation, from the first appearance of the disease, of the whole staff of the Institution. The calm and unexcited attitude of their officers has had not a little to do with allaying the very natural fears of the pupils, who have, as well as their friends at home, been kept well informed of everything occurring, whether for the moment hopeful or discouraging, and whose conduct has throughout been most exemplary. I have also to recognize gratefully the confidence and sympathy expressed by parents and friends of pupils, whose letters at this time have been particularly kind and reassuring. Some fourteen pupils, only, returned home, all with my fullest consent, and five of the number I may say, for various reasons, at my own suggestion. All will now be at liberty to return. Dr. Corson has been in close attendance on the invalids, and we have conferred daily on the bulletins to be issued and precautions taken. The Matron, Miss Dunn, has had to bear a very large share, both of work and responsibility, and has been unwearied and indefatigable in her attention to the needs of all. Let me add one word more in conclusion. The arrest of this fearful disease before it had made further progress was due, undoubtedly, under Providence, to our ability to isolate effectually, and this depended on the possession of our male hospital ward. On the girls' side of the building, we are still without that requisite. The moral is plain.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant.

A. H. DYMOND,
Principal.

Brantford, Oct. 22nd, 1886.