

THE TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The visitor at the Toronto General Hospital of a few years ago, will scarcely recognize in it the same institution either in external appearance or internal appointments of former years. The Board of Trustees and Medical Superintendent are to be congratulated upon the high state of efficiency to which the Hospital has been brought, for never before in the history of the institution has it been in such perfect working order. The scheme of amalgamation which is now being so energetically carried out will in a short time place this hospital in the front rank of institutions of the kind on this continent. The fever Hospital which is being erected, at a cost of about \$20,000, to the west of the main building is now rapidly approaching completion and will be ready for occupation in a few weeks.

The new Burnside Lying-in-Hospital which, under the amalgamation project is being erected in the extreme north-western portion of the grounds at a cost of \$11,000, is also near completion, and will be ready for occupation in the summer. It is a handsome white brick building, with Ohio stone dressings, and is in a style in keeping with the rest of the buildings. The Eye and Ear Infirmary to the east of the main building, is now about to be commenced. It will cost about \$15,000. This building will be connected with the main building by a corridor—the Fever Hospital is of course entirely disconnected. All these buildings are of the most modern and improved style, and every attention has been paid to heating and ventilation that skill and forethought could suggest. The number of intern patients in the main building under treatment averages from 175 to 185, and the number of externs average from 20 to 30 per day. Owing to the increased facilities for clinical instruction which the Toronto General Hospital now affords, medical students are no longer attracted to other cities, because of superior hospital advantages. Regular daily clinics are given the year round by the medical officers of the staff, the majority of whom are connected with one or other of the medical schools.

This prosperous state of affairs is no doubt due to the able and judicious management of the board of trustees. They have boldly grappled with every difficulty, broken down all monopolies, and dealt out evenhanded justice to all; and so long as they

hold the balance equally, there will be no jarring or want of harmony among the members of the medical staff. Another element of success is that the board of management has the entire confidence of the public, and subscriptions and substantial aid from private sources, and also from the Government are being received from time to time. Great credit is also due to the Medical Superintendent, Dr. O'Reilly, and his able assistants, for the neatness and cleanliness of the interior, and the good order and discipline everywhere manifested.

TORONTO ASYLUM REPORT.

This is a carefully prepared report and not a mere mass of dry figures as is too frequently the case. We have only time and space to notice a few prominent points. At the commencement of the year there were 631 patients in the asylum, and 232 were admitted during the year, making a total of 863 as against 956 in the previous year. This difference was owing to the transference of a large number of chronic and incurable cases to the Hamilton asylum. The number of patients at the close of the year was 671. The discharges during the year were 112; of these 75 were cured, 22 improved, and 15 unimproved. The number cured and improved is about 42 per cent. of the admissions during the year. There were 58 deaths during the year, making the rate of mortality equal to 6.66 per cent. on the total number of inmates.

There is still the cry of want of room, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the Government will secure increased accommodation. It is a crying shame that poor unfortunates of this class have to be sent to jail for want of proper accommodation in the asylum, and this at a time when medical treatment is of the utmost consequence, viz., at the outset of an attack. Dr. Clark alludes at considerable length to the alarming prevalence of an "enshrouded moral pestilence," in other words, self-abuse, as one of the most prolific causes of insanity. He suggests as a means of arresting this evil, in view of the improbability of any other means being adopted, that pamphlets should be issued on the subject and sent broadcast throughout the community. In discussing the question of restraint *vs.* non-restraint, in the management of the unruly, the Dr. very properly says:—Let it (restraint) be a final resort when moral suasion, or