

as the number of insane has increased, the relative proportion of supply and demand is probably about the same. It may be stated that the admissions during the year ending September, 1883, were, as regards the asylums mentioned, 543; the number discharged recovered was 174; and improved, 52; and the number of deaths, 183. The ratio of recoveries to admissions, viz., 33.52 per cent., is stated by Dr. O'Reilly to be higher than any year since 1877. The idiots are, of course, excluded. The mortality, calculated upon the average number resident, was 6.31 per cent., which is lower than for some years previously.

The total annual cost per patient in 1883, in the four asylums for the insane, varied from 127 dollars 16 cents (Hamilton) to 145 dollars 12 cents (London); the weekly cost being respectively 2 dollars 44 cents and 2 dollars 79 cents. Dr. O'Reilly contrasts the low rate of expenditure in the Canadian asylums with that of the United States, where the lowest average is 227 dollars 75 cents per annum per patient; while in Ontario the average is 134 dollars 68 cents. And he quotes the saying of one of the superintendents of the asylums in Ontario that this scale is "nearly poor-house rates." The same contrast has struck me as very remarkable, and the explanation is not altogether creditable to the Canadian Government. The salaries of attendants and servants are lower in Canada, but the explanation of the difference is to be found, according to the Inspector, in the relative character of the lodging, clothing, and, he proceeds to say, more especially the food. The quality is said to be good, but it is "plain and unattractive," so as to become extremely distasteful to many patients. It is difficult for a stranger to form an opinion on this subject, because he is unacquainted with their diet at home; but the asylum dietary is as good as in our county asylums.

The revenue from paying patients, of whom there were 538 in the asylums, amounts to a very considerable sum, viz., 59,922 dollars (£12,485) during the last year. This certainly points to the probable success of a private asylum which has recently been established at Guelph, and of which Dr. Lett is the superintendent.

I find, from a return made of the number of patients employed in the asylums of Ontario, that 52.57 per cent. of the patients were engaged in some occupation; being 1,479 out of an average population of 2,813. The largest percentage was at the London Asylum, viz., 69.89.

The authorities in Ontario are not blind to the difficulties connected with the accumulation of incurable patients, for whom the question of separate accommodation arises. I am glad to observe that the latter difficulty is being met by the erection of small buildings; these being sometimes devoted to the curable class of cases, while the larger buildings are retained for the incurable. In some instances, however, small buildings or cottages are, and may properly be, devoted to the chronic insane; while the recent cases are treated in

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