

equipped, the institutions must be supported at the public expense, and why should we not regard them as legitimate objects for employment of the public money. The public funds are already employed in constructing hospitals in certain favored localities. These are buildings very splendid and very expensive, highly ornamental to the places in which they are to be seen, and are sources of very natural satisfaction to those who dwell around them, or who own property there, but not by any means the most useful or even the safest retreats for those who are to have their residence in them during the seclusion made necessary by sickness or by an injury.

If we are to convince our public bodies that they have at all a duty in this matter, we must present to them an ideal of a hospital very different from that which at present prevails. The palatial style thought to be that which ought to mark these refuges for the sick poor, who when they are in health do not live in palaces, must give place to one which is more sober and less costly, and so it is that lighter and less extravagant buildings would be in every respect more suited to the objects chiefly aimed at.

The one-storey pavilion seems best adapted to our means and wants. The simplicity and the economy of its construction must recommend it to those who are interested in the question of cost; the convenience of its arrangement must give it favor in the eyes of those who have to do with administration; while the purity of air which can be secured by its means, is of such advantage in the treatment of disease and of injuries, especially such as are accompanied by open wounds, that one would suppose that the brethren of our profession can have but one mind in their advocacy of this description of building. Separation of cases infectious from non-infectious, would thus be complete. "Hospitalism," that frequent and readily accepted excuse for events which should not have happened, would be less heard of; the surgeon in instances of grave injuries, wherein his skill and care seemed about to triumph, would less frequently have to suffer disappointment from the septic infection of perhaps some trivial and forgotten scratch, and the physician would be saved the now not unfrequent mortification of seeing a patient who is under treatment for

a trifling ailment attacked by a deadly affection, which would not have appeared, if the case had been treated in the individual's home.

It is not necessary in this association to give any description of the one-storey pavilion, such a description could contain nothing not already known. No doubt the essay of Dr. Gill Wylie, published three years ago, and which treats on this subject, is familiar to most of us, but I may be allowed to say a word or two on the excellent fitness of this kind of hospital to our Province.

And first I would say that everything in the condition of our people and in the features of the country is hostile to the indulgence in what is florid and extravagant. Let us not in anything make ourselves ridiculous by manifesting that we aim at a display which is not always becoming in older and more wealthy people; nor let us forget that good taste and regardlessness of expense are not all times close associates.

In the long and narrow strip of country which is for us practically Canada, there is not much likelihood that there shall be at any time towns of great size, the configuration of the country and the fewness of its resources make such an expectation improbable of fulfilment. On the other hand among a prosperous agricultural population such as we hope that of Canada is to be, a considerable number of market towns of moderate size is a prospect which seems likely and near, and all of these, however thriving, will always have their poor, needing aid in sickness.

To small towns the construction of a hospital, according to present ideas, will be an enterprise of insurmountable difficulty. They will forego the hospital altogether, or else convert to the purpose some old disused tavern or factory, while a one-storey structure of wood or brick could be provided by them with perfect ease, cheaply, that in the event of its showing signs of becoming infected, there need be no hesitation, on the score of expense, in having it torn down and removed, and erecting a new one in its place.

I do not know that I would have brought this subject before the Association, if it was not that it was, so to speak, ready to my hand, and that I have had for many years before me proof of the evils resulting from using, for hospital pur-