

tion in the known world, and the result is that smallpox is almost vanished from the empire. In 1899 with a population of 54,000,000 there were only twenty-eight deaths, and these nearly all came in from an adjoining country.

If we consider the duty of the true physician is to stand by all measures that tend to promote health and prevent disease there should be some way of punishing those doctors who encourage the laity in their foolishness in combating the laws which are intended for their own best interests. Such action is certainly reprehensible, and it is hard to believe physicians of any school could be guilty of talking such "utter nonsense" as was attributed to them at one of their anti-vaccination meetings. It is highly probable that Dr. Councilman's great discovery of the germ that causes smallpox will assist us in a short time to a better understanding of the rationale of vaccination.

Two years ago the then President, Dr. McKinnon, referred to the great and often serious delay there was in gaining admission to our asylums for cases of acute mania, particularly with those at a distance. This need never occur at present time with our long-distance telephone facilities if our physicians are only careful enough to supply sufficient information. In all our asylums the superintendents are anxious to take in and look after this class of cases, and if applying physicians will but send full particulars setting forth the urgency of the case complete papers for admission will be sent on at once. Asylum authorities, as a rule, send the history or application paper to fill up first, and then if the case is a suitable one and they can still make room the patient is admitted. A great many senile cases are sent into asylums which could be looked after all right in their own home.

It is a matter of deep regret that so many insane people are sent to gaol without first making application to our asylums to see if such cannot be admitted at once. In the past year, of all the insane that have been sent into Toronto gaol (and there has 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 the asylums, as is sometimes the case. A change also should be made in the law so that two medical certificates should transfer a patient from 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