

vassed of late years for donations. Those able to give have already made large contributions. They would not be very easily convinced that there was any present need for a new hospital.

Grant for the sake of argument that the government could not be convinced of the need for another public hospital in Toronto, the new institution would be regarded as a private affair. It would, however, be called upon to take out a license, and would have to pay taxes on its assessable value.

The whole question appears to be very visionary, and impracticable. Should the doctors decide to go on with any such an enterprise, they will have long years of an uphill struggle in very inadequate accomodation. In the meantime, the hospitals that are now in existence will be receiving the donations of the wealthy, and gathering round them the sympathy of the influential, because they are meeting the needs of the public and affording the medical profession the accomodation they require.

THE GERM OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

Dr. Simon Flexner, of the Rockefeller Institute, of New York, announced before the Medical Society of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, on the evening of 14th March, that the germ of infantile paralysis had been discovered and cultivated. The medical gathering greeted this statement with marked enthusiasm. It is worthy of note that Dr. Thomas Cullen, a former Toronto graduate, occupied the chair.

Dr. Flexner stated that the organism is one of the smallest yet known, and is found in the spinal cord in wavy chains. He went on to say that he had not been able to establish that the infection is conveyed by means of the stable fly. He would not state that this was not so, but that he had not been able to confirm the statement made by Dr. Roseneau to this effect. He had caused monkeys that were infected with the disease to be bitten by various insects, and in turn had these bite healthy monkeys, but had not imparted the disease in this way.

This discovery will likely lead to a complete knowledge of the habits of the organism and how it is conveyed to those who are not infected. It may be the means also of discovering preventive measures. Now that the germ has been isolated and cultivated, there is every reason to hope that a serum of active powers shall be elaborated. Already much splendid work has been done along this line, but a serum of therapeutic value has yet to be found.

What Dr. Flexner has already accomplished in the treatment of cerebrospinal meningitis is well known and everyone will wish that he may meet with even greater success in the case of infantile paralysis.