

We hold that the Secretary, nor any other officer, had the right to express any such opinion. Their duty is simply to enforce the Act and the by-laws of the College, and the Act applied for, being in direct opposition to the latter, should receive their unrelenting opposition.

#### BELMONT INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

On reference to our advertising columns our readers will observe an advertisement relating to the Belmont Asylum for the cure of Inebriates, and the treatment of this unfortunate class is of such vital importance that we propose to devote to it some little space in this issue. The evils arising from the immoderate use of intoxicating liquor are so heart-rending, so widespread, and so generally recognized, as to require no comment from us. So much, indeed, has this question forced itself upon the attention of our profession and of the public that, in our day, it has become a subject of legislation on this continent, in Great Britain, and elsewhere. Formerly, intemperance was looked upon as a crime, and the victim punished as a criminal, but it is now getting to be admitted that intemperance is a *disease*, and that efforts for its repression should be curative in their nature, as in the case of any other disease. Dr. Parish, President of the "American Association for the Cure of Inebriates," in delivering an address before the Association in New York, in 1872, said:—"I believe we are a unit on the proposition that intemperance is a disease. We are dealing with it as a disease of the most grave and fearful character. \* \* \* \*

We confess to much astonishment that some public teachers should be so ready to stand in the way of reclaiming inebriates by any way whatever. It is difficult to comprehend why objection should be made to a man who believes himself to be diseased seeking relief from a physician, or going to an hospital where he can receive aid under the most favorable circumstances, any more than to a man who is convicted of sin and repentant seeking Christian counsel and sympathy to aid him to reform." A Committee of the British House of Commons, appointed during the same year to look into the matter, strongly recommended the establishment of reformatories for inebriates. The report stated that—"Small fines and short imprisonments are proved to be useless, as well by the

testimony of competent witnesses as by the fact that the same individual is convicted over and over again to even more than one hundred times. \* \* \* It is in evidence that a large proportion of the criminals passing through our gaols attribute their fall to drink, one witness having stated the amount as equal to seventy-five per cent. in a particular gaol; about twenty per cent. of the insanity recorded in Great Britain, and about fourteen per cent. in the United States, are placed to the same cause, and nearly one-half of the idiots in the latter country are stated to be the offspring of intemperate parents."

Now we have the experience of many prominent physicians, who have stated that a twelve months' total abstinence from all liquor is sufficient to take away the desire for it from even the most confirmed or hereditary drunkard, and in view of the foregoing facts should we not do all in our power to assist those afflicted with this terrible disease in emancipating themselves from its shackles. In the United States this matter has received much attention, and there are now a number of institutions of the kind in that country. A novel experiment has been inaugurated in Minnesota, viz., that of imposing a special tax on the liquor-sellers of the State for the purpose of the support of the State Inebriate Asylum, which tax was adjudged perfectly constitutional by the Supreme Court, and was, we believe, collected.

The Belmont Retreat for Inebriates, started in 1864 by Mr. Geo. Wakeham, who was for many years previously Superintendent of the Beauport Lunatic Asylum, is, we believe, the only institution of the kind in the Dominion of Canada. It has a Government license, and is aided by a small annual grant from the Local Government; it has generally under treatment from twenty to twenty-five patients, but has accommodation for more than twice that number. It has struggled on in the face of numerous difficulties, and is certainly an institution which should be supported by the inhabitants of the Dominion, in preference to sending afflicted ones to the neighboring States for treatment. Situated in one of the most picturesque spots in the environs of the city of Quebec, surrounded by extensive grounds and gently sloping meadows, with a background of scenery well fitted to induce repose and peace: these