

The report of the Registrar-General on Births, Marriages and Deaths is not yet issued. I regret this, as it is one of the most satisfactory, and is useful for comparison with the mortuary returns of the Dominion Government. The information it furnishes is purely statistical, but the ratio between births, marriages and deaths, the number of plural births, the predominance of sex, are all instructive points.

In the report of the Inspector of Insane Asylums we find the record of the most thorough and complete work under the charge of the government that bears on our profession. The many years of experience has brought it to a high state of efficiency, and the reports of the Medical Superintendents are of more than ordinary importance to us as practitioners. In it we find that there are 3,747 insane and idiots that are known to the Government—an increase of 204 since the previous year. Of the number under treatment 177 were discharged as cured. The Inspector in his report dwells on the apparent increase, and furnishes a table to show that the rate of increase has not advanced year by year with the increase of population—that insanity is not becoming more prevalent. His remarks on the non-restraint system are important. No patient in the Province is now placed under restraint; alcohol is not used and Doctor D. Clarke has forbidden tobacco in the Toronto Asylum.

The report of the Hospitals is rather disappointing, as we find simply a list of hospitals and a few statistics. All that relates to surgery or medicine is a list of diseases treated in these institutions. It is to be regretted that the House-Surgeons are not permitted to make a report similar to the Superintendents of the insane asylums, when an opportunity would be furnished them to publish some details of their year's work. There are sixteen hospitals in the Province: at Toronto, Hamilton, London, Guelph, Brantford, St Catharines, Kingston, Belleville, Pembroke, Mattawa, Port Arthur and Ottawa. Three of these are in our city. You may perhaps be surprised to learn that we possess the second largest hospital service in the Province, Toronto alone ranking ahead. Hamilton, however, has the advantage of having all the work centered in one establishment.

In several of the other reports items of interest may be met with, as in the deaf and dumb asylums, prisons, orphan homes, factories—but they are not of sufficient importance to warrant me in reviewing them."

Selections.

ANTIPYRIN AND NITROUS ETHER.—When a solution of antipyrin is mixed with spiritus ætheris nitrosi, a nitrous compound of antipyrin is formed, which crystallizes out in bright green acicular crystals. It has been positively asserted that this compound is extremely poisonous. In consequence of an action for malpraxis, the properties of this body have been carefully tested by Dr. Ludwig Bremer, of New York, who has given it as his opinion that it is not poisonous; and the editor of *The National Druggist*, who has given the compound to animals, and has taken it himself, is of the same opinion.—*British Medical Journal*.

TO RESTORE THE POLISH OF INSTRUMENTS.—Without going into the details of the experiments, I will give you the method of procedure. A saturated solution of chloride of tin in distilled water is made, and with this a number of large test tubes were filled to a height sufficient to admit of the immersion of the blades of the knives, the forceps, etc. The instruments were inserted and left over night. The next morning they were found quite clean, and of a silver whiteness. Rinsing in running water, wiping and rubbing with a chamois, completed the operation. Chloride of zinc solution gave pretty good, but not nearly so satisfactory, results.—*St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*.

A DANGEROUS VEHICLE FOR ALKALOIDS.—Among the vehicles for alkaloids recently recommended is cherry-laurel water, which, it is claimed, will prevent the formation of fungous vegetations in such solutions. Recent experiments have demonstrated (says *Nouveaux Remèdes*) that when sulphate or muriate of morphine, for instance, is dissolved in cherry-laurel water (or bitter almond water, which is