

Some fifteen acres of this, most of it dense, unclaimed forest, was apportioned to an asylum. Here the nucleus of the present institution was erected in 1877, and opened May 17th, 1878, on which date forty-six patients were transferred from the old smallpox hospital at Victoria. Situated on a cleared slope overlooking the Fraser River, and taking in a magnificent panorama of mountain and stream, nothing could exceed the scenic beauty of the site selected.

MANITOBA.

In proportion to its age, the province of Manitoba is well furnished with accommodation for its insane, having two asylums, one at Selkirk, the other at Brandon.

Previous to 1871 there seems to have been no provision for lunatics. Amongst the sparse population of the province, while it was yet a part of the old Hudson's Bay Company territory, cases of insanity were few and those few, so far as I can learn, were generally of a quiet, demented type, and as such allowed to wander about at will, or cared for by their friends and neighbors.

Among the Indians insanity was not at all common. It was usual for them, and many of the half-breeds, to attribute the origin of this affliction to the action of some evil charm, or the administration of some noxious potion, "Indian medicine," obtained by an enemy from one of the many "medicine men." There was also an implicit belief, that if a counter-remedy, or charm, could be procured from a "medicine man" having greater power than he from whom the offending one had been derived, the patient could be quickly cured.

Arguing from this, it seems very probable that some of the comparatively few afflicted were cured by faith; some, by the treatment which was not always quite void of value; while the balance, who were not amenable to cure by either of these means, succumbed to the successive ministrations of the rival "medicine men." There was little need, therefore, in the early days of the Hudson's Bay Company to make any provision for the chronic insane.

Cases of acute mania, especially if violent, were generally got rid of in a much more speedy manner. Those so afflicted were supposed to be possessed by a cannibal spirit or *windigo*, and