

Referring more particularly to the Hospitals for the Mentally Diseased, the possibilities under a departmental head would be of very material advantage. A periodic conference with the minister, either at the office of the former or at one or other of the hospitals, would, to a great extent, serve the purpose of a commission; indeed, I am of the opinion it would result in far more practical results than the American system of State commissioners, for this principle of conference could be extended to the officers who have the control of the purchasing of supplies, etc. It would be more within the bound of possibility, that some system of medical service could be established, whereby only those trained in the specialty of nervous diseases would receive promotion, and a young man might justly expect when once he had launched out into this important specialty, he might some day hope to qualify for the position of superintendent, and not be kept at the low level of a first assistant. A grade, too, of trained nurses, would be a possibility throughout the service, and attention given to the study of a new departure in Preventive Medicine, viz., the study and care of those neuroses which, if neglected, end in a condition which lead to an incurable mental derangement. And lastly, some arrangement could be made for the better study of nervous and mental diseases, both clinically and pathologically, for students as well as for those who desire to pursue the study of nervous and mental diseases as a specialty. Upon this minister would devolve the oversight of the thousand or more estates of the mentally incurable who are in the provincial hospitals, a matter of considerable interest both to the province and the heirs of those estates. A special legal officer should be attached to the department for this purpose, and the matter removed from the hands of the Inspector, who has plenty to engage his attention in the inspection of the asylums themselves.

The inspection of hospitals and charities is one upon which depends the expenditure of over a quarter of a million annually, and with the growth of the province and the increase of hospital accommodation, requires the most careful and painstaking oversight—characteristics which mark the work of the present inspector. But how much greater would be the impetus given to his work if it were placed under a minister whose time was given to dealing with such matters, and where direct business supervision would be directed to the dispensing of a charity, and at the same time the inspection of gaols was transferred from the department to that of the Attorney-General, to which it properly belongs?

In respect to preventive medicine, the advantages would be an immediate oversight by a Minister of the Crown of all that appertains to the spread of contagious diseases, and the installation