

THE NOVA SCOTIA HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, MOUNT HOPE.

A COMPARISON BETWEEN MODERN METHODS AND THE COUNTY
ASYLUM SYSTEM

BUILDING

The Nova Scotia (Mount Hope) Hospital for the Insane was built in 1858. It is a three storey building, situated on a hill overlooking Halifax Harbor. The site was selected by the eminent social reformer, Miss Dorothy Dix, who did so much to force the establishment of more humane methods of treating the insane in America. She showed excellent judgment in the selection of the present site, as it is admirable. The institution as at present constituted is an object lesson not to be neglected by those who are interested in the care of the mentally diseased, as it furnishes remarkable contrasts between the old idea and the new. The new building embodies many of the modern requirements, and is a credit to those who planned it, as it is a hospital in the true sense. Many changes made in the old building render it possible, but by no means ideal, and it is a question if much more money should be spent in endeavouring to remodel it to suit the demands of modern psychiatry.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is for 500 and on the day of our visit 252 males and 208 females were in residence. Acute cases are cared for in the modern building; disturbed and quiet chronics are housed in the original asylum.

STAFF

The medical staff consists of,—

Medical Superintendent
Asst. Medical Superintendent
Two assistant physicians (women)

STAFF

Superintendent of Nurses
Dietitian
Vocational Instructor
The nursing staff is made up of: 34 nurses (female). 18 male attendants

OLD BUILDING

Parts of it are badly out of repair, the corridors are dark, but not used to any great extent as many sitting rooms open from these corridors. The sitting rooms are comfortably furnished and rather attractive. The dormitories contain one, two, three and four beds. Many of the