

# Canada Medical Journal.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER, 1866.

## REPORT OF INSPECTORS OF PRISONS AND LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

We have received the report of the inspectors of Prisons, Asylums, &c., for the year 1865, and we must protest against the continued neglect of this section of the Province in the matter of an efficient asylum for the insane. On a recent occasion we visited the Asylum at St. Johns, and were much struck with the apparent success of the Superintendent, Dr. Howard, in making the most of the miserable accommodation afforded him. The cells are small, ill-ventilated, and in the winter season must be in a most unwholesome condition, Dr. Howard exhibits the greatest administrative ability, and we feel convinced that were his claims fully recognised, and an asylum worthy of the name placed at his disposal it would be second to none in the Province.

We have again and again written on the subject of the positive want of an asylum for this district; the urgent necessity is freely admitted by our executive, and why delay is still permitted in carrying out this requirement, we are unable to imagine.

We have on a former occasion written concerning the Beauport Lunatic Asylum, and we believe that our strictures did good. There was no desire on our part to get up an outcry against that institution or its enterprising proprietors. In the course of the past summer we visited that asylum, and certainly we were agreeably surprised at the extent of the buildings and grounds. Cleanliness reigned in every department; but then in an asylum for the insane, the utmost caution in this respect becomes a necessity, which cannot for one moment be relinquished. The associate dormitories are large and possess ample cubic space. The corridors, day rooms and refectories are all that can be desired; and in the rear of the building, there are large play grounds where all sorts of amusements abound. We are not in a fault-finding humour, but we do think it a pity that the new building was not placed on the top of the hill, about 60 or 80 yards in rear of its present site; but perhaps good and sufficient reasons exist why it was placed where it stands. As we before said, the