

La grippe, I am pleased to say, is the only epidemic by which we have been visited in 1896-97.

Typhoid fever appears to be on the decline, only two cases having occurred during the year just ended. Can this be owing to the pure water supply, and the trap placed at the mouth of the sewer?

The sewage system is a very defective one. My report on it some time since to the warden I believe has been forwarded to you. I am of the opinion if the suggestions there made by me were carried out, a more perfect system would be obtained than that at present in use, if not a complete one.

#### INSANE WARD.

There remained in this ward on the 30th June, 1897, 18. The majority of these will in my opinion, never be restored to health, mentally. There were discharged from this asylum as cured 3, improved sufficient to resume work 9, transferred to provincial asylum on expiration of sentence 3, died 3, one of these committed suicide. Mr. Evans the keeper, discharges his duties to my satisfaction. New closets are required here. A beginning was made to construct them but for reasons, principally, owing to the investigation held by the commissioners held last fall and this spring, the engineer's time being so much occupied with them, little progress was made towards their completion.

#### FEMALE DEPARTMENT.

The matron and deputy matron have as usual, discharged their duties to the sick in a very satisfactory manner. The two insane women confined here, and upon whose cases I have reported several times, have not, as I had hoped they would have, been removed to a provincial lunatic asylum. Can nothing be done to have them placed in one? As you will observe by looking over the annual report of sick treated in the hospital, there have been two children born here since July last. The usual returns are hereto appended. Mr. Gunn discharges his duties as hospital overseer in an efficient manner.

In conclusion I beg to return my sincere thanks to the warden J. H. Metcalfe, Esq., for his kindness to me, since he became warden, and for the great desire he has always shown to assist me in every way possible, to render this prison second to none in the Dominion in a hygienic point of view.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your obedient servant

O. S. STRANGE, M.D.,  
*Surgeon.*

DOUGLAS STEWART, Esq.,  
Inspector of Penitentiaries,  
Ottawa.