

asking for legislation to obliterate county care entirely was successful in obtaining the passage of a law creating a new State Commission of Lunacy in 1889 and the blot on the fair name of New York State was almost immediately obliterated. The State hospitals were enlarged and the insane disappeared from the county poor houses.

The results were gratifying in the extreme, from the humanitarian standpoint, and the reduction in the cost of maintenance an unexpected and splendid achievement.

We have quoted the New York experience at some length as the conditions were to a great extent parallel to those existing in Nova Scotia at the present time.

The regulations for the Local Asylums for Harmless Insane, theoretically at least, are supposed to provide for the proper care of insane adults, paupers and children, but a moment's reflection will convince almost anyone that they were impossible. Let us see how they work out in practice, admitting for the sake of argument that such a classification as that outlined in the foregoing paragraph can be justified.

How many of the local asylums are substantially constructed, and so designed as to permit of proper classification of patients? The new wing at Pugwash and the building approaching completion at Stellarton are the only ones that fall within the definition.

The requirements regarding water supply, etc., are not lived up to in a great number of instances,—indeed, one asylum had water carted for nearly six weeks on account of the failure of supply.

Heating arrangements are anything but satisfactory and in some institutions so inadequate that positive suffering results to the inmates.

Regulation 4, regarding lighting, isolation of refractory patients, etc., is only too often a dead letter.

Regulation 5, insisting on the maintenance of proper fire escapes, is rarely attended to, and the number of fire traps in existence is appalling.

Regulation 6, calling for single bedsteads, mattresses, and bed-clothing, is not strictly observed.

Regulation 8, referring to the comfort of refractory (harmless) patients in isolation is a dead letter.

Regulation 9, referring to locks, etc. The breaches of this regulation are extremely common.

Regulation 10, re qualifications of Superintendent, Matron, and other officials, is not strictly observed.

Regulation 11, re proportion of nurses, etc., to patients, is not strictly observed.

The regulations provided for the County Asylums are impossible of fulfilment because the policy of herding senile, mental defectives, cat-