

be supplemented by clinical and pathological laboratory studies, but it should be made clear to students that observation of sick people is of more importance than the chemical or microscopical examination of their secretions or the dissection of their bodies after they are dead. There has been undoubtedly of late an undue proportion of attention devoted to the chemistry, microscopy and bacteriology of disease, and not enough to the semeiology. Students are being encouraged to hunt for the tubercle bacillus in the sputum before they have learnt to distinguish a dull from a clear pulmonary note. There is such a thing as a bedside shrewdness which was cultivated to a remarkable degree before instruments of precision came to be used. If Hippocrates were to do a day's duty at the Montreal General Hospital we have no doubt but that we should find few mistakes in his diagnosis and prognosis. We must not forget that all or nearly all the good work of this century in connection with fevers—the work of Graves, of Jenner, of Shattuck, and others—was done without a clinical thermometer. We remember to have heard it said of the late C. J. B. Williams that the loss of his hearing in no way affected his powers of diagnosis in thoracic disease. It would seem that the educational cart is being placed in front of the horse, that the use of instruments of precision is being taught before the senses are educated. Mr. Tait is not alone in entertaining such opinions; on the contrary, there are many who, with him, advocate the restoration of the old apprentice system, and though this is certainly a swing of the pendulum in the opposite direction, yet it must not be forgotten that under this system were educated some of the brightest ornaments of the profession, and it is a question whether their successors will equal them in elevating and maintaining the standard of British medicine and surgery.

PROTESTANT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE

The past month will constitute an era in the treatment of the insane in this Province, having witnessed the opening of the Protestant Hospital for the Insane. While it is to be regretted that a leaven of the much-to-be-deplored and decried farming-out system has, from lack of funds for its support, been forced