

and at the close of last year we had six thousand residents in the Hospitals for Insane. This figures out 1 in 420. You will see by these figures that our newer country has not the same proportion of mental diseases, or rather if we have, that many cases of mental disease are not being treated in the hospitals. In the last annual report, published by the Inspector of Hospitals for the Insane, we find that 1,337 new cases were admitted during the year. You will see from this that the medical practitioners in the Province of Ontario had during the year to decide on the mental condition of those 1,337 cases, and they probably also had as many cases whom they knew were suffering from mental disease, but because of the character of the illness and the circumstances at home, the doctor considered that they could be treated just as well at home.

This is a big responsibility laid on the physicians of the Province, and I wish to-day to draw the attention of the members of this association to what we in the Hospitals for the Insane may do to help in this work, and at the same time to ask that your help may be given to us.

In the first place, when you send a patient to the Hospital for the Insane for treatment, we can guarantee to you to-day that he will be given good and scientific treatment. He will be treated carefully and kindly; records of his case will be kept, probably more completely than in any other kind of a hospital.

All cases that come will be placed under the care of a trained female nurse. The Ontario Government has established a training school for nurses in our hospitals. The course of study and lectures are at least equal to that of any other hospital. It is a three-year course, and to those of our graduates who are suitable for positions of trust we arrange for a post-graduate course. All our nurses in the Toronto Hospital for the Insane are either graduates or undergraduates. We have at the present time sixteen nurses who have graduated from our own school, and who have taken the post-graduate course, and this year we have forty-five nurses taking the various examinations of the different years, and added to this a probationary class of about twenty. I draw attention to this fact because away back in the dark ages the impression was prevalent that patients in the asylums were treated harshly and sometimes abused. The public mind seems to retain this impression, and I know many people yet who think that when a patient is admitted to the Hospital for the Insane that he need hope for nothing in the way of sympathy or kindness. In fact, we often receive applications for nurses, both male and female, in which the applicant states that he or she is strong and able to defend himself or herself from the attacks of the patients. At the present time restraint of any patient in a hospital