

sewage-disposal problem is deserving of the serious and favorable consideration of our citizens. Our daily press is not backward in recognising the advantages of pure air and water, it recognises the great importance of a good health record as one of the foundations of our city's prosperity. We concur in all this, and say to them go on, step further and back up an energetic and now well constituted Local Board of Health.

THE NEW HOSPITAL IN TORONTO.

Arrangements are being made to build the new hospital on the grounds of the University of Toronto next summer. A party of gentlemen composed of the Hon. John Macdonald, Mr. Vice-Chancellor Mulock, Professor Ramsay Wright, and Dr. Chas. O'Reilly left Toronto, December 27th, to inspect a number of the principal hospitals in the United States, in order to gain a complete knowledge of the latest and best methods of constructing hospitals. They intended to visit Boston, Baltimore Philadelphia and New York. Those interested in this good work are determined that the new hospital shall be as perfect as possible in all respects. Professor Wright's chief aim will be to make a thorough study of the best scientific laboratories on the Continent, which will be of great service in drawing the plans for the new laboratories to be built this year for the Science Department of the University Professoriate.

AMYLENE HYDRATE, THE LATEST HYPNOTIC.

Von Mehring, in a recent number of the *Therapeutische Monatsschrift* (N. Y. *Medical Record*), describes a new hypnotic, discovered by Wurtz, known to chemists as di-methyl-ethyl-carbinol, and to physicians as amylene hydrate. It is a clear, colorless liquid, soluble in 8 parts of water, and miscible in all proportions with alcohol. It has a distinct, penetrating odor, like many of the volatile oils.

The average dose is 4 grammes (1 fluid drachm), and is most useful for the sleeplessness of ner-

vousness and the insomnia of fevers. It is palatable and free from danger, and in power lies midway between chloral and paraldehyde. It is said that it has no serious effects in extensive cardiac lesions. It is generally unreliable when used for insomnia which is directly due to pain.

The *Record*, in commenting on this and other hypnotics, as well as antipyretics, refers to the wonderful development of organic chemistry, and shows how much it has assisted therapeutics. Beginners in the study of medicine cannot fully appreciate the merits of such a course in chemistry as is given by Dr. Pike in the University of Toronto; but the seniors, as well as the profession generally, will learn by such examples as this the vast importance of a thorough scientific training in chemistry as well as physiology.

TORONTO SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY.

We are pleased to learn that this excellent institution is making substantial progress. The third annual dinner was given in the Rossin House, December 13th, and was very successful in all respects. We understand that the College is anxious to advance with the times, and become affiliated with the Provincial University with a view to obtaining degrees in dentistry for its graduates who come up to a certain standard. The teaching in the College is, so far as we can learn, all that could be desired so far as it goes—the only weak point being the methods of giving clinical instruction. We believe the authorities are anxious for improvement in this particular, and we have reason to believe that provision will soon be made for a thorough course of clinical teaching.

We call the attention of the profession to Dr. H. O. Walker's Weir-Mitchell Sanatorium, Hamilton, which has lately been enlarged and improved. This well-known system is here carried out in its entirety, and under the direct supervision of Dr. Walker, who is assisted by nurses trained in Dr. Weir-Mitchell's own Hospital.