

#11.

Hospital Accommodation in Montreal.-

A recent survey of the hospital situation in Montreal revealed statistically that more hospital beds were required to meet the needs of the citizens. My attention was called to this report during the recent meeting, and it would seem that only the French population is concerned in this defect - that for the English-speaking and Protestant community ample provision exists to-day.

Now, if this be true, is it essential or wise to add more accommodation in our English hospitals when other needs for our English community are so urgent - when, for example, our handling of the Public Health situation, our training of doctors in this line is so lamentably deficient, when we have no trained psychiatrist in the University to teach our students the essentials of mental diseases, nor to act as consultant with our professional men?

I understand that it has been proposed to add some French doctors to the service of our Montreal General Hospital to meet the increasing demands made through the influx of French patients. Could not this be better met by the new Notre Dame Hospital now under construction rather than increase our financial obligations by added overhead charges? (Every patient in hospital costs more to the institution than the income derived from various sources for his maintenance).

Over-hospitalization.-

The view was very strongly expressed at the Chicago meeting that a change of viewpoint was coming with reference to hospital building, that more accommodation was being provided than necessary, that much economy could be attained by the newer method of ambulatory clinics. In other words, many cases are unnecessarily received in our hospitals, and many kept in too long, thus adding to expenses. That the practice of having visiting doctors from the hospital staff to go to patients' houses would and does save a great deal of hospital responsibility, and has been tried out with great success already.