

fire, they would be found inadequate. It must ever be borne in mind that it would be a hard task to empty a hospital of its inmates, so many of them being bed-ridden.

The imperative demand, therefore, is prevention. All fire plant and electric wires should be made safe. The nurses and orderlies should be taught fire drill. There should be in all wards buckets of water, and at convenient places hose attached and ready for instant use. Such provisions would cost but little, and might at any time avert an appalling holocaust.

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### A HOME FOR THE BLIND,

The Annual Report of the Ontario Institute for the Education of the Blind, at Brantford, has just been issued. The Principal, Mr. H. F. Gardiner, makes some important recommendations. He strongly urges that something be done for the indigent blind who cannot maintain themselves. He thinks they should not be sent to the poorhouse nor committed to the jail. This class could not be properly cared for in the Institution in Brantford, which is intended for the education of blind youths.

Dr. Chamberlain endorses this suggestion, and remarks that there are fifty to seventy blind persons in Ontario who are homeless and have no means of support, nor anyone to care for them. He thinks a house and workshop should be erected beside the present Institution. They might be put at such employment as they can do. We hope this recommendation may be carried out. There is no more worthy object on which some of the public funds could be expended than in providing a home for the destitute adult blind. We feel sure that no one in the Province would raise his voice against any such expenditure. There is no more suitable place for it than as an addition to the present institution at Brantford.

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### THE PREVALENCE AND COST OF CONSUMPTION.

From Virchow's Archives we learn that tuberculosis is very rare during the first year of life; that from the first to the fifth year it is infrequent, but regularly fatal; that from the fifth to the fourteenth one-third of all bodies are found to contain tubercles; that from the fourteenth to the eighteenth year tubercular lesions are found in one-half; that from the eighteenth to the thirtieth year 97 per cent. show tubercular changes; and that after the thirtieth year 99 per cent. of all bodies reveals tubercles. About 10,000 die in Canada annually. The loss to the country in time, expenses and lives is about \$22,000,000 a year.