

palities decline to contribute anything towards paying for the hospital care and treatment their indigent patients receive. The time has come when municipalities should be awakened to a sense of the duty they owe to the local hospitals who care for their sick poor. A statutory amendment might with great advantage be introduced giving hospital boards the power to collect from a municipality the actual cost of maintenance of a patient who is unable to pay for what the hospital has afforded him during his illness. The Municipal Act of Ontario now gives the power for the municipality to make the grant; why not give hospitals the power to collect what the municipality owes for the care of its indigents?

In the province of Ontario government aid is voted each year to hospitals on the following terms:

1. A provincial grant is made for all patients in a hospital during the first ten years of its existence at the rate of twenty cents per day, irrespective of what sum is contributed by the patients themselves.

2. After a hospital has been in existence for ten years the grant is paid only for patients for whose maintenance \$4.90 per week or less is contributed.

3. In all cases the limit is 120 days, and if patients remain in the hospital longer than that period the refuge rate of seven cents per day is allowed.

4. Children over one year and under twelve years are allowed for at the rate of seven cents per day.

5. No allowance is made for infants under one year of age.

Each hospital is visited each year and a report prepared showing all the conditions in which the hospital is found. A copy of the report of the inspection is sent to the hospital visited and another copy sent to the provincial secretary. Each hospital in addition makes a monthly return to the inspector, giving the names of all patients admitted, discharged and died during the month. In this way a record is kept at the department of the work each hospital is doing. At the close of the year a financial statement is made by each hospital showing in detail the financial receipts and expenditures. These returns are carefully completed at the department, so that a knowledge is obtained of all details of expenditures and, if a hospital is extravagantly managed, it is easily detected. I may be pardoned for expressing the opinion that government supervision and inspection of hospitals has great advantages. The average rate for maintenance of hospitals of Ontario for