

health and in that of engineering : the time can hardly be far distant when it will be felt in regard to the relief of destitution, of which a certain portion unhappily has its seat even amidst the pleasant and stately homes of the fairest, proudest and most prosperous city. We must all sympathize with the unwillingness to introduce a poor law, though it is a great mistake to suppose that public charity regularly and justly administered demoralizes or degrades more than private charity, which, through ignorance and want of time for the examination of cases, must often be dispensed with a lavish and capricious hand. We must all prize voluntary effort, which is twice blessed, blessing the giver of the relief as well as the receiver. On voluntary effort, in the main, we may still rely. That Toronto receives a full measure of it from workers of both sexes, who give not only money, but what is more precious and meritorious, their time and energy to the cause, must be well known to any one who occupies this chair. Notably to a body of ladies whose charitable feet are always on the path which leads to the house of suffering, and who carry with them the balm of comfort and good counsel as well as bread, the city owes a large meed of gratitude. To voluntary effort, and especially to that of the churches, we must look for the relief of the indigence which shrinks from sight and would never ask for public relief, yet is often accompanied by the keenest suffering. But though you may rely mainly on these agencies, you cannot, in such a city as this, rely entirely upon them. Responsibility in the last resort must rest somewhere, and it can scarcely be thrown even on the most devoted volunteers. Volunteers cannot give all their time, be always ready at a moment's notice, or be always in the city. Cases of emergency may occur, particularly in the depth of winter, and if no one is responsible for their relief the community may one day be awakened to the necessity of a change by something that would shock its humanity. The treatment of tramps and vagrants is