

until after the elections. The deputation then stated that if there were good and sufficient reasons why the proposed bill could not be introduced this session they held that it was not too much to ask that a small appropriation should be made, say, \$3,000, to admit of a beginning being made in the meantime, for the purpose of encouraging the treatment of inebriates, either in cottage hospitals or in the wards of public hospitals, where satisfactory arrangements can be made to that end. The deputation called attention to the fact that a small beginning had been made in this direction during the last year by giving medical treatment to sixty-one cases of inebriety in connection with the Working Men's Home, Toronto, with satisfactory results, and the Association asked that they be reimbursed for the money spent in this effort, namely \$500. These requests seemed to strike the Secretary as being but reasonable under the circumstances, and he intimated that he would report favorably of the matter to his colleagues. The reply of the Provincial Secretary with regard to the non-introduction of the bill this session was of course most disappointing, but, on the other hand, if the money grant be made in accordance with the petition of the deputation, a beginning at least will be made, and the experience gained during the year will be of undoubted value in legislating for the unfortunate class for whose benefit the bill is intended. We will be thankful for the potent influence of the profession in bringing this about.

Yours truly,

Confederation Life Building, Toronto,      A. M. ROSEBRUGH.  
February 14th, 1902.

It is to be regretted that Dr. Rosebrugh and the gentlemen associated with him have not been more successful in their laudable and unselfish efforts. It should be evident that if treatment of the inebriate can be successfully introduced, it is demanded not only from a humanitarian but also from an economic standpoint. The money spent in the treatment of confirmed drunkards, even if it were necessary to establish a special institution for this purpose, would be saved many times over by diminishing the jail and prison population, and turning useless and expensive burdens into useful members of society. Unfortunately the inebriate vote is not organized; nor, if it were, would it be sufficiently intelligent to be cast in self-defence. Some day it will be recognized that drunkenness is a disease, and treated as such; but when such a day comes there will also be in every cabinet a minister of hygiene, and more energy will be devoted by governments to the health and well-being of the people within their jurisdiction, than to the extension of railroads, the production of butter and cheese—all very necessary in their way—or even to the fattening and prevention of disease in cattle.