

The officers are attentive to their duties, and I am pleased to learn the Government has favorably considered their petition for an increase of salary. In the past the guards received a mere pittance, certainly not enough of pay for the work expected of them. We have all heard it said their pay was better than that received by laborers who have harder work to do. I would answer this objection by saying that a prison official should not be ranked as an ordinary laborer. He should be a man of intelligence and at least of some education, that convicts may not look on him as their inferior. That men of this class may be procured, or retained if already employed, a liberal salary must be given them. As to the work done, I believe people not acquainted with penitentiary matters to have a very erroneous opinion. If those who think the life of a guard an easy one, do his work for one month in any season, but particularly in winter, I am convinced the long hours, the Sunday occupation, the frequent night duty, the constant anxiety, and the danger of assault from vicious men, and the partially insane with which prisons of this kind abound, will, at the end of this term, admit that the life of a guard is not the easy one their fancy had painted it. Others tell us the maintenance of the penitentiary is a great burden to the country, and should be made self-supporting. How are people to be satisfied? The moment any work is done inside the prison wall, a cry is raised that bad men are learning trades at the expense of the country, and are competing in the market with honest labor. Yet all expect to have their lives and property protected, and, as far as possible, to have the number of criminals lessened. How is this to be done? Religion, of course, must have the first place; then comes the work of intelligent and capable officers preventing certain men from having intercourse with one another, and preventing the dissemination of bad books and pamphlets which are apt to find their way into a penitentiary no matter how strict the rules and careful the supervision of the Warden; and finally the convicts must have the means of acquiring a taste for work.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. A. TWOHEY,
Catholic Chaplain.

J. G. MOYLAN, Esq.,
Inspector of Penitentiaries.

No. 20.

KINGSTON PENITENTIARY, 30th June, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honor to present my Report for the year ending 30th June, 1883.

The annexed tables present the actual condition of the sick and insane in this institution during the year.

It will be noticed that we have had no sickness of a special character, the prevalent diseases in no sense differing from similar cases occurring outside. No epidemic has visited us, and all remedial cases of disease have readily responded to treatment.

Of course the sick have every chance in the way of nursing and attendance, nothing being withheld that will conduce to recovery.

The hospital overseer is prompt and attentive in exercising a critical and intelligent oversight, as regards the hospital, and everything prescribed by the surgeon.

The number of seriously sick is comparatively small in proportion to the population. This, to some extent, may be accounted for in the fact, that the beginning of disease are promptly met.

The mortality table gives the causes of death, and the wonder is, taking into account the physical condition of those treated, that we have so many recoveries.