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Original Communications.

The Treatment of Inebriates.

By A. M. ROSEBRUGH, M.D.

THE Ontario Medical Association will meet in annual session three or four weeks hence. The present would seem an opportune moment for calling the attention of the medical profession of Ontario to the great need of proper provision being made for the scientific treatment of habitual drunkards. Inebriety is a disease, and its victims become the progenitors of epileptics, imbeciles, inebriates and criminals. From a medical standpoint, as well as from the standpoint of humanitarianism and public economy, the question of inebriety has a claim upon the medical profession fully equal to that of epilepsy and tuberculosis, and almost equal, in fact, to that of insanity itself. For the efficient treatment of insanity, tuberculosis and epilepsy, the asylum, the sanitarium and the farm-colony are required respectively; so also for the efficient treatment of inebriety the special hospital and the industrial reformatory are required. The present plan of sending habitual drunkards to gaol is both unphilosophical and bad economy. It is to be hoped that the Medical Association, at the June meeting,