

REPORT OF THE PHYSICIAN TO THE INSTITUTION.

R. CHRISTIE, ESQ.,

BELLEVILLE, October 1st, 1884.

Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities, Ontario.

SIR.—I have the honor of submitting the Annual Medical Report of the Ontario Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, for the year ending 30th September, 1884.

The total number of pupils in attendance during the last session was 245. Several of those, who had completed a full course of instruction, were not re-admitted after the summer vacation, but the vacancies thus made were immediately filled by a number of new ones. As is the case each year a number of applicants for admission, whose mental condition unfitted them for the Institution, had to be rejected.

The improvements in the water system which were in progress when my last report was written have been completed, and we now have an abundant supply of good, wholesome water for drinking and other purposes.

During the vacation the plaster ceilings of the dining-room and kitchen were torn down and replaced by pine sheeting, and whitewashing was done throughout the building wherever necessary, the interior now presenting a clean and tidy appearance. I notice, however, that some repairs to the roof are very necessary, as during a rain storm the water leaks through into one or two of the upper dormitories doing considerable damage to the ceilings there, as well as being injurious to the health of those who sleep in the apartments when damp.

The general health of the pupils during the entire year has been remarkably good, it being an unusual occurrence to find a child confined to bed more than a day or two at a time, and then only with some trifling illness.

There was a complete absence of contagious or infectious diseases so much to be dreaded in Institutions of this kind.

It is pleasing to be able to report such a state of affairs, particularly when we take into consideration the amount of anxiety caused, and suffering endured during the epidemic of typhoid last year.

The Superintendent continues to evince the same solicitous care for the comfort of the pupils that has always characterized him, seeing that each is cleanly and comfortably clothed, and that suitable and wholesome food is supplied; and when any are sick he visits them frequently to assure himself that they are being properly looked after.

The dormitories, recreation-rooms, and indeed all the apartments are kept clean, well ventilated and healthful.

One pupil, a little fellow named James I. D. Shand, eight years of age, who for the first entered the Institution on the 10th September, was at the time, and had for several weeks previous been, in a delicate state of health, so much so that his parents through ignorance of his disease hesitated about sending him. After his arrival the disease from which he was suffering, chronic meningitis, gradually progressed and he died on the seventeenth day after his admission, his mother being with him for several days prior to his decease. In this case there is no doubt that the boy should not have been brought away from home at all.

I have also to record the death of Miss Christina McDougall, who for several years filled most satisfactorily the position of Instructress of Sewing. For a number of years she had been a sufferer from an incurable affection of the heart, and, as is usual in such cases, her death was sudden, though not unexpected. She died on the 16th March, 1884.

Cases of the following diseases and accidents received treatment during the year :

Abrasions.	Debility.	Hysteria.	Pharyngitis.
Abscesses.	Diarrhoea.	Indigestion.	Phthisis.
Anemia.	Dyspepsia.	Iritis.	Psoriasis.
Boils.	Ear-ache.	Laryngitis.	Quinsy.
Bronchitis.	Feverishness.	Lumbago.	Ringworm.
Burns.	Gastralgia.	Meningitis.	Scrofula.
Catarrh.	Head-ache.	Nausea.	Sciatica.
Chorea.	Heart Disease.	Neuralgia.	Sprains.
Colic.	Haemoptysis.	Ophthalmia.	Tooth-ache.
Constipation.	Hernia.	Otorrhoea.	Urticaria.
Corneitis.	Herpes.	Palpitation.	Wounds.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. B. MURPHY, M. D.,
Physician.