

and there can be no good reason for its use at all aside from its facility of introduction. The introduction of so virulent a poison into the system even in any form renders it possible for it to be absorbed in the slow way above indicated is radically wrong and should not be ventured upon if the patient's welfare is to be considered.

Our object in referring to this matter is in order that the profession generally may be aroused to the importance of using their influence against its use, and that many who are now the victims of slow poisoning from the presence of this drug in the mouth may be relieved by its prompt removal, and the substitution of something harmless if necessary.

HOSPITALS, GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS.

If we could have entertained a doubt that the views of medical advancement, that we have from time to time promulgated in our pages, were those of the profession at large, particularly as regards Hospitals as Practical Schools of Medicine, the subjoined resolution unanimously carried at the last meeting of the Medical Council, would have been sufficient to have assured our mind on the subject.

Moved by Dr. Ross, seconded by Dr. Clarke, "that in the opinion of this Council, the time has now arrived when the General Hospitals now in operation in Ontario, and such as shall hereafter be established, should be placed upon a government basis, similar to that provided for our Insane Asylums, so as to give an assurance to the sick poor in our midst that their wants and applications are duly respected, and also to equally distribute the onus of their support over the whole community, and that we do earnestly recommend our professional brethren throughout the whole country to urge upon the individual legislators, and through them upon the Legislature, the absolute necessity which does exist for such provision being made."

It should be remembered, that in them, all the accidents and diseases, which it is the glory of our profession to relieve, are accumulated for the purposes of the purest charity, for the enlarging of the domain of science by the most eminent practitioners of the day, and what is of equal importance to the public, for the instruction of the

numerous students, who are afterwards to dispense their skill and knowledge in a thousand different channels. It may be argued that the great Hospitals in England are not supported out of the general taxation of the Kingdom. True, they are not the gift of the state; but how widely different are the circumstances, without for the present taking the trouble of attempting minute enquiry into them, we conceive we are authorized in our statement, that a very large portion of the funds of every Hospital in the City of London, is derived from fixed and permanent funds, and that the free gifts alone of deceased benefactors would go a vast way in maintaining them in their present efficiency. Besides, as to their floating income, much, very much indeed, of that is derived from the public spirit and generosity;—to lay ostentation aside—of persons of eminent station, who consider they owe a duty to society, for the protection it affords their wealth and rank, to contribute to the maintenance of public charities. These persons are not likely to be influenced in the management of the Hospitals, or in the appointment of Medical officers. In this country we lack the element necessary for dispensing with state support, viz: the great hereditary wealth of the aristocracy and landed gentry, and the vast acquired wealth of mercantile millionaires, to be found in every city of the United Kingdom. Our Hospitals therefore, have in a great measure to be supported by the payments of the patients, payments, it is true, fixed at a very low rate, but in many instances we apprehend, met by suffering or great self-denial on the part of the family. The yearly grants from the Government and the very liberal, in some instances munificent donations of private individuals, proving insufficient for the exigencies of the charities, if they are to be in any way conducted on a scale commensurate with the needs of the various cities in which they are situated, both as regards the number of sick poor, and as schools and theatres of medical science. Viewed in the latter light, Hospitals as integral parts of the great republic of medicine, should, we conceive, be considered as most important parts of medical policy, and subject to laws devised by the profession for their good government. Some of these laws we would in this article venture to suggest. With every disposition to concede to Hospital Governors, a fair meed of praise for their zeal and impartiality in the general management of

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