

The Association promises to be an influential organization. Many of the hospitals in the Province have joined it, and also many of the trustees and others interested in hospital work have become members. The objects of the Association are to procure increased Government aid for the maintenance of indigent patients in the public hospitals of Ontario; to take steps to secure a proper amount of county and civic aid, and to promote, by mutual suggestion and discussion, the interests of hospital work throughout the Province.

The above objects are of a most praiseworthy character. There is good work, and plenty of it, to do along the above lines. It is only too true that many municipalities make but scant provision for their destitute poor. There is a strong desire, in many places, to unload the common duty, in this respect, on to the generosity of the individuals who take an interest in the needy sufferer.

There are some persons who impose upon hospitals. They are hospital inhabitants. They go from one hospital to another, seeking shelter and attendance. Something may be done by the Association to rid the hospitals of the expense of caring for such imposters. When once detected, they should be watched.

The Association might also do a good service for the medical profession by putting an end to the abuse, now prevalent, whereby a person of means takes a bed in a public ward and claims free medical and surgical attendance. To save expense he takes the cheapest accommodation, and pays the doctor nothing. In all cases where the patient is not admitted under an order from the municipality as a pauper, he should be required to pay for his medical attendance. This should apply also to persons placed in a hospital by societies and corporations. The governing bodies would do well to apply the rule of free attendance only to certified charity cases. They would only be doing justly by their medical staff to exempt the latter from giving free attendance simply because the person or his friends chose a public ward. It is to be hoped that this abuse will soon cease. Hospitals should not do anything that would deprive the medical profession of its legitimate fees. In this regard there should be perfect accord between the governing bodies of the hospitals and the members of the profession.

In all cases where patients pay for their maintenance in a hospital they should be free to select their own medical attendant. Such medical attendant would be required, however, to observe the rules of the hospital.