

REPORT OF PHYSICIAN TO GENERAL HOSPITAL.

WHILE furnishing my report as Physician to the General Hospital, I beg to offer some observations relating to the Institution, and to show the connexion between it and the community, which probably will interest the public.

There is no Institution in the Ottawa country more deserving of public confidence and support than the General Hospital; its doors have been constantly opened to the poor and suffering as far as its limited means permit, and even when paying patients have been received they are in general of the poorer class, and they have been admitted on such terms and rates as preclude the possibility of remuneration.—The large number of operatives engaged in the Lumber trade, who, of all classes, are most liable to accident and disease, and the almost destitute emigrant class, make up the great body of patients in this city, the great centre of the lumbering country, where medical aid and hospital succour can be best procured.

The staple business of the Ottawa has, moreover, met with so many reverses this year, and local capital has become, in consequence, so reduced, that charitable institutions have had good reason to deplore the misfortune which has tended, in some degree, to mar their influences. It is to be hoped, however, that by extraordinary exertions they may be enabled still to hold out protection and relief to the poor and suffering. The Sisters of Charity whose generous devotedness, christian zeal, tender solicitude, and noble philanthropy have, in all countries, been the theme of praise, have here their humble representatives; wherever pestilence, disease and want are to be found, they are ever present, soothing the dreadful agonies of the dying, and ministering to the wants of the afflicted with that unselfishness and disregard of pecuniary embarrassment which have always characterized their class.—Notwithstanding the difficulties with which they have been surrounded in providing an Establishment from which such splendid results have been attained—they opened during the past year an Asylum for poor and virtuous female servants out of employment, in which more than one hundred have been received for different periods while looking for engagements, and more than sixty female Emigrants, almost destitute, were taken in at various times and kept till hired out in the city or adjoining country. Forty six persons were discharged from the Hospital cured, who had been supported free during their illness, being poor without any means of support, and in a large number of cases but little was received from pati-