

Medicine in particular, and the profession in general, pointed out to the Legislature this weakness in the Act, suggested amendments which would strengthen it, directed their attention to similar acts in various States to the south of us, but to no purpose. The Act went through as originally drafted. Amendments must surely come. Sir William Meredith, who drafted it, has said: "He does not claim that the Act is perfect or that the last word has been said." That the last word has not been said is the view of many. Let us therefore persist in our endeavor to secure what we deem our due. I bespeak a cordial reception and support for the resolution about to be submitted.

I must not close without making some reference to the Hospital for Insane, which is in the course of erection at Whitby.

Perhaps some of you will remember a very interesting article on the "Ontario Hospitals for Mental Diseases," read before the Canadian Medical Association in 1912 by Dr. Ryan, superintendent of Rockwood Hospital, Kingston. I am taking the liberty of repeating some of the information contained in that article.

Prior to 1905 therapeutic measures, laboratory work, research work and pathological work were almost unknown in the hospitals for the insane of the Province. Few records of patients, if any, were kept. The disturbed patients were restrained by drugs, locked doors and iron bars. The Government, through the Department of the Provincial Secretary, the Hon. W. J. Hanna, took advantage in 1905 of the retirement of a number of the superintendents to bring about a radical change of method in connection with these hospitals. A commission was sent to Europe to examine the system used in Germany and other countries. Three times commissions were sent to visit the most advanced state hospitals in the neighboring Republic. Fortified with information thus obtained, a conference of the superintendents, assembled for the purpose, adopted a new system of classification and of treatment which was at once put into operation in all the hospitals of the Province. Now, patients are carefully examined, both as to their mental and physical condition. Laboratories have been established, pathological experts appointed, dietitians engaged, complete records kept, and training schools for nurses established. Therapeutic measures are employed. Hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, massage are in constant use. In a word the inmates who require treatment are treated as patients in any other hospital are treated.

What are the results? Restraint disappeared, straight-jackets burned, drugs used for therapeutics only, bars gone from the windows and locks from the doors, the noise and turmoil changed to the calm quietness of the sick room, the percentage of recoveries substantially increased, the people losing their dread of these hospitals, physicians