

small expense." We believe in punishing criminals, even with the lash, but not with unsanitary torture, perhaps resulting in death. The worst of it is, there are about thirty lunatics confined in this gaol, some of whom had been there a long time—one for nearly three years. Among the number was a child nine years old whose only company was several aged lunatic women. Think of this, friends of humanity. Is there not in Toronto a society for the prevention of cruelty?

THE same Grand Jury spoke in high terms of the condition of the three other public institutions in Toronto. The Lunatic Asylum they "found in admirable condition throughout" but much overcrowded, there being now over 700 inmates, while the accommodation is only intended for about 650. They say "we cannot commend too highly the order and cleanliness throughout the whole institution." The Mercer Reformatory they "found to be in excellent condition." They "were glad to learn from the matron, Mrs. Coade, that the number of inmates was considerably less than last year; also, that they were as fully employed as possible, chiefly in laundry work." In the Central prison they "found the most perfect order, discipline and cleanliness, and the prisoners fully employed, reflecting the highest credit on the Warden."

It is quite noteworthy, or if not, we may be at least pardoned for noting it, that we understand the Toronto Gaol is one of the few public institutions which do not receive this JOURNAL. Specimen copies it appears have been repeatedly during the last ten years sent to the gaol physician, but they were "of no avail." He won't touch it. The other three institutions receive the JOURNAL regularly—as it is published, and have done so for many years.

THE last Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for Idiots at Orillia gives some interesting figures. It appears from it that there are between five hundred and six hundred idiots in the province for which accommodation is wanted but cannot now be obtained. Statistics in other countries go to show that there are nearly as many idiots as lunatics. The number of insane appears to be everywhere

on the increase. Dr. Beaton admits that the number of idiots applying for admission "would seem to indicate that idiocy is on the increase in this province," yet he thinks the figures are not evidence of it. We believe lunacy and idiocy are both on the increase in all civilized countries, and that this increase will continue until much more attention shall have been given to the practice of the general principles of health and the proper development of the human race. *Mens sana in corpora sano.*

CUT down the saloons, we have long contended, and intemperance will soon be much lessened. Bars, according to Mr. Justice Rose, in a recent address, are more fruitful of drunkenness than any other agencies, and his lordship thinks they should be abolished. The Nova Scotians, an exchange, informs us, have closed all bars, and it would be a good move if the other provinces were also to try the experiment.

As evidence that there is good in everything, the Ontario Legislature is likely to pass a bill following the lines of the English law which forbids persons taking in infants except under regulations and registration of the municipal councils. In cities the evils of baby farming are becoming very great, most of the children dying within four or five weeks. The bill also provides for the holding of coroner's inquests in cases where deaths occur.

ILLUMINATING gas escaping in closed bedrooms often results seriously, and it is well to provide means for the prevention of such accidents, as recently suggested by the Ontario Provincial Board of Health, but the foul gases and other impurities given off from human lungs during the night in closed unventilated rooms scatters a poisonous seed which develops year by year into causes which are hundreds of times more destructive of human life than illuminating gas; although, strange as it is, the greater evil creates the lesser interest.

"REAL PROGRESS" writes to the *Evening Journal* in opposition to the new park project, says if more money is available, let the poorer class of Lower Town have some attention given to them. Let His Worship find his way to Anglesea and Cathcart Square, and King street and reflect on the annual loss of infant life from bad drainage