

The effects of the increased over-crowding of the institution during the past year are seen, as the Superintendent remarks :— 1st, In the striking increase in the death-list of the institution ; and 2nd, In the impaired general health of all the inmates of the institution, whether sane or insane.

The total deaths in the Chief Asylum and the University Branch in 1863, was 25. Last year they ran as high as 35. Shewing an increase in the deaths of about 40 per cent. on nearly equal numbers under treatment, viz. : 582 in 1863, and 594 in 1864.

The second alleged indication of the over-crowding is one that cannot be demonstrated absolutely by figures ; but the Medical Superintendent, who has the very best opportunity of coming to a correct conclusion on the matter, gives it as his firm conviction that the standard of general health of all the inmates of the institution, sane as well as insane, has been seriously impaired by the excessive over-crowding during the year.

During the present year the Superintendent calculates that about 150 new patients will apply for admission. But where can they be put ? In the ordinary course it is not likely that beds can be provided in the institution for one half of this number, even if we continued to keep up the dangerous crowding which has produced such hurtful effects during the past twelve months.

In the face of this alarming state of things it is not surprising that Doctor Workman, who sees and feels the danger more clearly than others, writes thus earnestly :— “ I am now utterly at a loss to see what further measures can be taken to meet, with our present means of lodgment, the numerous applications which are pouring in from all parts. I have so often, so long, and so fruitlessly urged the completion of the Toronto Asylum, as well with reference to increased means of accommodation, as to the even more important matter of *improved means of classification*, that I dread to renew my recommendation on this head, lest my pertinacity might be regarded as indicative of mental infirmity.”

Doctor Workman contends, as the Board has done in former reports, that the creation of additional Branch Asylums is not