

Hospital Reform

IMPROVEMENTS IN FACILITIES FOR HOSPITAL CARE—THE HOSPITALS' BULLETIN—TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES— COST SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING—INCREASE IN REVENUE —MANAGEMENT OF ESTATES—DEPORTATION OF UNDESIRABLES

There are eight hospitals for the insane, one hospital for feeble-minded and one hospital for epileptics in Ontario, caring for 7,600 patients.

For a number of years before the present Government came into power the hospitals for the insane lacked the progressive features which at present characterize them.

In the treatment of the patients the first step in advance was made by the installation of the continuous baths and hot-air system. These methods had been in use for some years in Europe and the United States, but had never been introduced into the Province of Ontario.

In all the provincial hospitals radical changes in the treatment of patients have been brought about. No longer are patients going to these hospitals suffering from the feeling when discharged that they have been detained in insane asylums. Many of them will never have seen the inside of one, but will go out into the world again feeling that no stigma attaches to them from their hospital residence, and they will feel that they have been merely undergoing treatment in a hospital in the same manner as any other patient would.

To bring provincial hospitals up to the highest standing, better facilities had to be installed to enable the medical officers to properly observe their cases and to compile the necessary histories relating to the same. To accomplish this a complete system for recording clinical cases has been put into effect, and the medical officers no longer spend hours daily in performing clerical work, but their time is devoted to the careful study and observation of their patients.

A Bulletin is now issued quarterly and a copy of the same sent to every physician in Ontario. The Bulletin records the work being done at each hospital. By this method the general medical practitioner is kept informed regarding the work being done and the most improved methods of treatment.

A regular system of Training Schools for Nurses has been established so that those in charge of the insane are instructed by a course of lectures, followed by examinations, written and oral, conducted by a Board of Examiners appointed each year by the Provincial Secretary. By this reform the greatest improvement has been made in methods for caring for the sick and infirm. Now a patient sent to a Hospital for the Insane receives hospital care by trained nurses under constant instruction and direction. The results have proved of incalculable benefit to the patients and have raised the institutions to a standard of efficiency hitherto unknown.

RECEPTION HOSPITALS ESTABLISHED

The Reception Hospital Act of 1914 provides for the establishment in cities of over 100,000 inhabitants of Reception Hospitals, where all cases in the incipient stages may be sent and given the most improved methods of treatment. The object is to prevent, as well as cure, by encouraging the admission of cases as soon as anything abnormal is noticed. In this way it is expected that many cases will be saved the necessity of being certified to as patients for admission to the Provincial Hospitals for the Insane. The establishment of Reception Hospitals is regarded by the medical men of Ontario as a most progressive step.