

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

R. CHRISTIE, Esq.,

Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities.

SIR,—In reply to your request, I herewith enclose the Medical Report of this Institution for the statutory year ending September 30th, 1886 :—

At the time of closing my report last year, one of the staff of teachers, Miss Loveys, was lying in a very critical state from inflammation of the liver, accompanied by jaundice, and other distressing symptoms. By a faithful perseverance in a particular line of treatment, the inflammation was subdued and an excellent recovery followed.

I am reminded by this case to refer to four or five cases of jaundice which occurred in succession during the winter, the severest one of the number being the porter, whose deep yellow color gave striking evidence of the morbid changes in the liver diets. The presence of such a large percentage of cases was probably a mere coincidence and not in any sense due to a local cause. Disorders and derangements of the alimentary track have, however, been the most marked feature in the list of diseases for the year, quite a number taking the form of severe intestinal colic. These attacks could never be traced to any specific cause beyond some indiscretion in the character or quantity of food taken.

As a proof of the continued excellent sanitary condition of the Institution, I am happy to report there are no deaths to record, and furthermore, that not a single case of epidemic disease has found its way into the Institution during the year.

Of course our chief protection against all zymotic diseases must depend upon the integrity of the Institution sewer, and it is fair to presume that all sewage matter is delivered quickly and efficiently at its proper destination. The safety experienced in the past should not, however, lull us into a sense of false security, and we therefore rely upon the vigilance of the engineer to see there are no breaks in the drain pipes and no defects in the traps, by which the deadly sewer gas might escape.

Considerable difficulty is experienced in bringing the pupils to understand the necessity for out-door exercise and fresh air in order to maintain a proper degree of health, and many seek to evade this duty, even where there are special reasons for its observance, and much firmness is necessary in order to enforce this regulation. To this end it would be a satisfactory arrangement if the whole school were turned out for a walk every fair day with the regularity observed in our Ladies' Colleges.

In the first month of our present term, two of our community have been prostrated by serious illness, the house carpenter having first suffered from a sharp attack of dysentery, and afterwards a male adult pupil was laid up with severe acute pleurisy. Both have, however, so far recovered that the carpenter has returned to his work, while the pupil is convalescent.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

BRANTFORD, Oct. 1st, 1886.

W. C. CORSON, M.D.

(Postscript to Physician's Report.)

P. S.—Since forwarding to you the above report, it becomes my duty to inform you that diphtheria has made its unexpected appearance in the Institution, first in the person of a male pupil, aged about 14 years, in whom it early assumed a malignant and fatal type. Five other cases of the same malady followed in quick succession, but less virulent in form. As this outbreak of an infectious disease occurred after the close of the official year, the full history of its origin, course and termination, belongs properly to the next annual report, to which I beg to defer it.

The Principal, however, has kindly shown me his supplementary report respecting this event, in which the main facts are faithfully exhibited, and the statements and conclusions therein contained meet with my unqualified approval.

BRANTFORD, Nov. 1st, 1886.

W. C. C.