

paying for food, nursing, medicine and dressings the munificent sum of forty cents a day. That such patients should, in addition, ask for free treatment is nothing short of scandalous, and an imposition on our good nature and proverbial lack of business ability. No fee can be charged them, however, unless a definite understanding is arrived at upon their admission. The course which should be pursued is obvious. Inquiry should be made concerning the circumstances of every patient seeking hospital aid, and such patients as are able to pay should be given to understand by the secretary of the hospital, or when first seen by their medical attendant, that a fee would be expected and demanded. There is no danger that any abuse would follow this course. No sharp line would be drawn, and where doubt existed we feel sure that the patient would always get the benefit of it. Patients might appreciate in a higher degree the services which they now seem to demand as a right, and it would also soon dissipate the prevalent idea that in some mysterious manner, perhaps out of the forty cents a day, hospital physicians and surgeons are enjoying a very fat income.

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### ON BEHALF OF THE INEBRIATE.

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The following is self-explanatory :

*To the Editor of DOMINION MEDICAL MONTHLY :*

Dear Sir,—In an editorial in the February number of the DOMINION MEDICAL MONTHLY of last year (page 92), you say, *inter alia*, that "imprisonment has proved utterly useless from either a deterrent or a corrective standpoint," and you further say that, "It is to be hoped that the present session (of the Legislature) will see the inauguration of more humane and more scientific treatment of inebriates." You will remember that about two years ago a bill was drafted conjointly by the Prisoners' Aid Association and the Public Health Committee of the Ontario Medical Association. This bill has been under the consideration of the Government ever since that time. The principle on which the bill is based, has been endorsed by the Canadian Medical Association, the Ontario Medical Association, the Toronto Medical Society, and by a majority of the medical members of the Legislature. It has also been endorsed by the Canadian Conference of Charities and Correction, as well as by a number of other charity organizations, including the Ontario W.C.T.U. Notwithstanding this, up to the present time nothing has been done by the Government regarding this bill; and, moreover, I regret to be obliged to report that in an interview with the Provincial Secretary recently, we were informed that no action could be taken by the Government at present, i.e., the bill could not be introduced.