

try, have been for years prominent in agitating the subject, and every physician has experienced the inadequacy of present means to cope with this particular class of patients.

No doubt many of these gentlemen will be present at the meeting on the 13th and 14th, from whom the committee I suggest might be named, to advise with the authorities in all things touching this subject.

From village, town and city throughout the length of the Province, comes the urgent appeal for a suitable place for the proper care and treatment of those who are contracting or have contracted the habit of inebriety. On the one hand, the family and friends are unable to control, by their individual exertions, the patient, when the desire for over-indulgence seizes him, and the latter generally has his or her own way for weeks, there being no remedy applicable, but to let them exhaust themselves; on the other hand, there is no coercive measure, short of the common jail, and all the associations and contaminations with those who are morally and physically vile and filthy. A thousand times in this fair city have the family and friends preferred the alternative of letting the patient drink himself or herself to death, rather than adopt the alternative of the common jail, and are doing it to-day,—rather than they should consort or familiarize with the average inmate undergoing restraint in the jail. So, between the two, there is no happy medium.

Inebriety to-day is not received in the same light it was a quarter of a century ago, it is verily a disease, and we owe it to the public to educate them to this view. As other diseases, it may be hereditary or acquired, and as such should have the same Christian charity and paternal care, kindness and treatment extended towards it.

The rules regulating hospitals for general diseases are not applicable and will not meet the requirements of this form of disease; neither will asylums for the insane,—though, in many instances, those inebriates have stages when they are as irresponsible as any inmate of an asylum for insane.

Being, therefore, brought face to face with these facts, and the total inadequacy of any means in our power to successfully treat these cases—being cognizant fully of the great number who to-day and for years have been wrecking themselves, their families and estates, we will be neglectful of our

duty to our homes if we make no effort to raise this reproach from out our Province.

No way appears but the erection of an Inebriate Home, combining such of the rules of both hospital and asylum as will meet the wants of these cases. Special rules to regulate it, and commitment within its walls to be as carefully guarded as those of an insane asylum. Of the many plans in various places adopted, I know of none which, to my mind, embodies a true regard for the welfare of the patient and the welfare of the community.

Compulsory incarceration should be in the hands of the county judge and two physicians. The period of time for residence, compulsory or otherwise, to be decided by a board of advisors composed of medical men, county judge, and city and provincial representatives, who will pass in private review, once every month, every patient, limiting or lengthening their term to the best of their judgment. In this manner the so-called "liberty of the subject" would be safely guarded, and abuses never be able to creep in. Upon this board of advisors the Ontario Medical Association might undertake to appoint the medical members for certain terms of years; the others, as representatives of the city and province, might be named by these bodies respectively.

Dr. Clark, in his excellent article on this subject, points out that an Inebriate Home would likely be self-supporting, so that question need not be discussed, as he is a good authority; but, apart from a building, only small grants would be required from the city and the province, to be supplemented by the contributions of those having means to pay for their attendance.

These are a few details inserted at the present time, with the hope that the subject will be put into practical shape at the meeting of the Association soon to be held.

I am, yours truly,

J. E. WHITE.

Selected Articles.

CASES TREATED WITH IPECACUANHA SPRAY AT THE WESTMINSTER HOS- PITAL.

BY WILLIAM MURRELL, M.D., F.R.C.P.

The Ipecacuanha Spray was originally introduced as a remedy for chronic bronchitis and other diseases of the throat and respiratory organs in consequence of the reputed success attending the use of a nostrum, both in London and Paris, by an irregular practitioner. It was difficult to obtain