

News of the Month.

THE ONTARIO SOCIETY FOR THE REFORMATION OF INEBRIATES.

THE Board of Managers of the Ontario Society for the Reformation of Inebriates begs to announce that the Society is now prepared to undertake the care and treatment of inebriates, more particularly of the indigent class. Arrangements have been made for giving home treatment in suitable cases, and with one of the hospitals of Toronto to receive, for a period of from one to three weeks, such cases as require hospital care. A medical officer administers treatment, and there is a Medical Consulting Committee, the functions of which are of an executive character; a Probation Officer takes the supervision of inebriates subsequent to treatment. Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh is the medical officer; Drs. Wm. Oldright, E. J. Barrick and W. Harley Smith constitute the Consulting Committee; while W. J. K. Bellamy, Esq., is the Probation Officer.

Arrangements have also been made with the Toronto police authorities whereby persons arrested for drunkenness (when not hardened offenders) may be committed to the care of the probation officer instead of being sent to gaol and forced to associate with the vicious and the degraded.

The treatment extends over a period of three weeks; in many cases it may be conducted at the home of the inebriate, while in others, hospital treatment may be required, but not usually for more than one week. No secret remedies are used and the treatment is conducted on strictly ethical lines. It has the endorsement of the medical profession, and the scheme has been recommended by the Medical Associations of Canada as the basis for legislative action.

The probation officer gives a helping hand subsequent to treatment, and acts in the capacity of a friendly Christian visitor and adviser, assisting in obtaining employment, etc.; he endeavors to place the inebriate on a higher plane of life and living, and also, if possible, in touch with the church of his choice.

For the purpose of husbanding the limited resources of the Society, and also with a view to the encouragement of self-respect and ambition on the part of the inebriate, the cost of treatment, when not met at once, is to be understood as a loan to be repaid as