

## THE TREATMENT OF INEBRIATE PRISONERS.

At the January monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Prisoners' Aid Association Dr. Rosebrugh, of Toronto, was commissioned to visit American Inebriate Hospitals and to interview specialists in alcoholic inebriety with a view to the introduction of special medical treatment of inebriates while undergoing imprisonment. The following is Dr. Rosebrugh's report:

I beg leave to report with regard to my recent visit to Canadian and American inebriate institutions as follows:

I left Toronto at 4.20 on the afternoon of Friday, February 4th, and arrived in Boston on Saturday at 10.30 a.m. After securing a room at the Parker House, I proceeded to the office of the Massachusetts Prison Association and thence to the office of the Prison Commissioners at the State Capitol. After obtaining the desired information and making necessary arrangements for visiting public institutions and for interviewing officials I began the work in hand. My first visit was to the Washington Home for Male Inebriates where I was fortunate in meeting Dr. Ellsworth, an acquaintance of my late brother, Dr. Rosebrugh, of Hamilton. Over 20,000 cases of alcoholic inebriety have been under treatment at the Washington Home. Dr. Ellsworth gladly gave me in detail his plan of treatment in this class of cases. I next visited the Massachusetts Home for Inebriate Women where there is a daily average of about eighty inmates. The attending physician (Dr. Temple) was not in the institution but I called upon him in the evening and obtained from him the desired information. From there I went to the "John Howard Industrial Home" where I found thirty-seven ex-prisoners employed in making brooms and whisks. Penologists are not agreed upon the wisdom of congregating ex-prisoners in these homes, but the John Howard Industrial Home is well spoken of and seems to be doing a good work. The Home is very nearly self-sustaining and the superintendent is himself an ex-prisoner. I may add just here that there is an annual State appropriation of \$11,000 in Massachusetts for the benefit of discharged prisoners, which I understand is a per capita grant of about \$20. My next visit after calling on Dr. Temple was to the Baker Gold Cure in Dorchester which I reached about 9 p.m. I made this visit at the suggestion of Dr. Temple who speaks well of the institution and the good work accomplished. There is a Sunday afternoon religious service which is attended by former patients which seems to keep up a desirable *esprit de corps*. I did not ask for and did not expect to receive information with regard to the remedies used, but I was given to understand that, if we so desired, the medicines could be supplied to our association at rates very much below the rates of the Keeley Company. As a matter of fact I question if the Keeley Company will sell their remedies outright. I left Dorchester at 10 p.m. and reached my hotel at about 11 p.m.

On Monday the 7th, in accordance with previous arrangement, I visited the State Reformatory for Women, near South Framingham. This is a model institution and the superintendent, Mrs. Johnson, is recognized throughout the continent as having extraordinary qualities of head and heart for such a responsible position. The average number of inmates is 350. From the Reformatory I went to Foxboro in the southern part of Massachusetts where the State Hospital for Inebriates is located. I here met Dr. Hutchinson, the resident physician, who readily gave me all the information I desired. There