

standing this apparently large provision, recent enquiries into the condition of the insane generally throughout the state, shew that a very large number of lunatics are not lodged in asylums ; and the very important fact is brought to light, that the excluded are chiefly native Americans, whilst the asylum inmates are very largely foreigners. The same fact also obtains there, as in Canada, in relation to the larger proportion of patients sent in by contiguous than by distant localities. May not the low proportionate rates of insanity, shewn in my last report to have obtained, as furnished by our asylum figures, among native Canadians, be to some extent accounted for by a similar preponderance of foreigners in our Asylum. Those who *have* no home, and no friends, are most likely to be sent promptly to the Asylum, whilst it is well known that very many lunatics who have a home, or have friends, are detained there, too often with the sad result of incurability, from the withholding of efficient treatment when alone it might have been successful.

The longer and more thoroughly we investigate the subject of insanity and its wants, the greater will be found the number of its victims, and the larger the amount of required relief. I believe that our present system of providing that relief is based on an erroneous principle, and that so long as it continues so, the condition of the insane at large will continue as it is—deplorable ; and that it will gradually become worse.

The great want seems to me to be the institution of a comprehensive and humane system of providing for the chronic and incurable. This is now most inadequately attempted by their retention in our primary asylums, with the collateral aid, since 1856, of the three branch asylums. All are now full ; and the demand for further accommodation, instead of decreasing, is constantly augmenting. Multiplication of branch asylums, such as those hitherto established, is by no means desirable ; but even were the case otherwise, it is very doubtful if any government we may ever have in Canada, would feel disposed to augment the charge upon the provincial revenue for the support of the insane to the figure requisite ; and if it should retain the purpose of continuing in this responsibility, it is a fact requiring no demonstration, that the fiscal concessions would always lag many years behind the actual

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