

The attention of the Commissioners has been drawn to this subject by the admission of not less than seventeen insane persons during the last quarter; at the end of which quarter there were 427 patients in the establishment.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

A. LEMOINE,

S. C. L. A.

The Honorable A. A. Dorion,  
Provincial Secretary.

QUEBEC, 6th July, 1864.

SIR,—I am directed by the Commissioners of the Beauport Lunatic Asylum to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, that notwithstanding the reconstruction of the centre part of the main building, and the addition of two extensive and commodious wings, the Commissioners are of opinion that the buildings are much over-crowded with patients—the number now being 547.

When the attic rooms of the main building were first occupied, it was understood that they were only to be occupied temporarily, and until better apartments should be provided; since that time better rooms have been provided, but the attics continue to be crowded with patients.

Several of these rooms are totally unfit for occupation by insane persons—they are too small, and cannot be properly ventilated.

In the paper on "Colonial Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums" lately received from England by the Government of Canada, it is distinctly laid down on the 19th page that it is equally necessary for ventilation that there should be allowed for each patient 1,000 cubic feet of space in associated wards, and 1,500 in single rooms, in temperate climates.

Now, many of the single rooms before referred to do not contain one-half of 1,000 cubic feet—some of these contain under 300 feet, and they are occupied by dirty patients.

The Richardson House and the sheds attached to it were, last year, condemned by Dr. Douglas, one of the proprietors of the Asylum, as totally unfit to be used another year, and yet no preparations are made for the accommodation elsewhere of the numerous patients they contain.

In the opinion of the Commissioners, the condition of the attic rooms before mentioned, and of those of the Richardson House, and of the sheds attached to the last-named house, is such that it ought not to be allowed to continue as it is; and the proprietors are open to blame for permitting the number of patients to be so much increased as it has been, if they have not remonstrated against the increase.

The Commissioners are also of opinion that sheds ought to be erected to protect from the heat of the sun the patients who go out into the yards for air and exercise; this remark does not apply to the yards which are shaded by the buildings of the Asylum.

The Commissioners are further of opinion that there should be increased means for employment and amusement of insane, for without these the chances of recovering are much smaller than with them.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners beg most respectfully to suggest that the present number of patients be not increased, but that it be allowed to diminish gradually by death or discharge; and that the proprietors be called upon to provide the necessary buildings for the accommodation of the patients who now occupy the Richardson House, the sheds attached to it, and the objectionable attic rooms in the main building.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Yours, &c.,

(Signed)

A. LEMOINE,

S. C. L. A.

(Copy.)

29th June, 1864.—I have this day inspected the Asylum. The number of inmates has been increased since the 20th ult., by 13, the total number being now 547. In the paper on "Colonial Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums," lately received from England by the