

THE SITUATION IN ONTARIO.

When the late Sir Oliver Mowat became Premier of Ontario he was strongly impressed with the great need of provision being made for the reformation of drunkards, and he proposed establishing an institution for their reformation at Hamilton. Much to his regret, however, he was obliged to abandon the project, as he found that public opinion did not seem to him to be sufficiently ripe to justify incurring the necessary expense; for which reason the proposed institution was changed to an Asylum for the Insane.

In 1891 the Prison Reform Commission appointed by the Ontario Government reported very strongly in favor of the establishment of at least one reformatory in Ontario for the reformation of drunkards. When, however, the attention of Sir Oliver was called to this recommendation, he stated that his Government would be pleased to co-operate in the establishment of one or more reformatories in the Province, but that the initiative could not be undertaken by the Government. However, as this offer was never put in such a form by the Government as could be made use of as an incentive to voluntary effort either on the part of the municipalities or private individuals, nothing came of the offer.

THE SITUATION IN TORONTO—A HOSPITAL REQUIRED.

The Ontario Society for the Reformation of Inebriates was organized in Toronto five years ago. The object of the Society is:

(1) To promote the reformation of indigent inebriates in Ontario: (a) By making use of the public hospitals of the Province for the purpose; and (b) by combining therewith the Massachusetts Probation System.

(2) The second object of the Society is to promote the reformation of inebriates in Toronto as follows: A medical officer and a probation officer attend the Police Court and offer medical treatment and a helping hand to inebriate prisoners found desirous of such help. The medical treatment is given by the medical officer either in the home, at the office of the physician, or in a ward of one of the public hospitals of the city. The probation officer acts the part of a friendly visitor, assists in finding employment when necessary, and helps to a better life. By means of these combined efforts no little good has been accomplished. The work is heavily handicapped, however, from the lack of proper hospital accommodation. The public hospitals are frequently overcrowded, and moreover lack facilities for the up-to-date scientific treatment of inebriates. A small hospital—a "Cottage Hospital"—is urgently required in Toronto for this purpose. It is true that the City