

Correspondence

ONTARIO SOCIETY FOR THE REFORMATION OF INEBRIATES.

Toronto, Ont., March 12, 1912.

THE DOMINION MEDICAL MONTHLY, TORONTO, ONT.

Dear Sirs,—The present seems an opportune time for calling attention to the liberal manner in which the Imperial Government favors the reformation of inebriates,—an example which we in Canada might follow with profit.

King George the Fifth, when Prince of Wales, upon his return from his first visit to India, is reported to have said: "Wake up, England." When it comes to the knowledge of the Vice Regent in Canada that we have no public institutions here for the reformation of the unfortunate inebriate, it is quite conceivable that he might be impelled to say, with regard to this sad defect: "Wake up, Canada."

The Ontario Government has already made an enviable reputation in the domain of Prison Reform. Its methods of caring for destitute and delinquent children is not merely up-to-date, but actually leads the world, and the extraordinary success that has attended the experiment of exchanging cell-life for farm-life for first offenders is the wonder and admiration of all penologists who have visited the Prison Farm at Guelph. Steps are also being taken for the custodial care of feeble-minded women and girls.

Nothing has as yet been done, however, in the direction of furnishing reformatory treatment for inebriates.

In the year 1898 an Act was adopted in Great Britain called "The Inebriates Act of 1898." This act provides that when a Reformatory for Inebriates is established by a County or a group of Counties and certified to by the Government Inspector, it becomes a "Certified Reformatory" under the Act and the entire expense of maintenance is assumed by the Government.

This generosity on the part of the Government has accomplished what it was designed to accomplish, namely, it has promoted the establishment of Reformatories in the United Kingdom,—in England alone there being now ten "Certified Reformatories," whereas there were two only before the Act came into operation. Not only so, but two Governmental Reformatories have also been established—one for men and one for women—for the custodial care of in-