

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

PSYCHIATRY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM.

THIS subject was very fully discussed in the Section of State Medicine of the Toronto Academy of Medicine on 28th January. Drs. C. K. Clarke, J. M. Forster, J. W. S. McCullough, J. G. Fitzgerald, Harvey Clare and others contributed papers or took part in the discussion.

THE NEED FOR A PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC.

In opening the discussion, Dr. C. K. Clarke, medical superintendent of the Toronto General Hospital, spoke from notes only, and said that while he was quite willing to discuss the subject of the psychiatric clinic, he was not at all optimistic about its possibilities at the present moment. In 1905 he had come to Toronto filled with enthusiasm and hoping after his years of experience to make at least one great advance in the subject of psychiatry by establishing something which America had not before attempted. He carried the good judgment of the Hon. Mr. Hanna, who became enthusiastic over the proposition of establishing a Psychiatric Hospital. He also impressed Mr. J. W. Flavelle so much that a commission was appointed by the Ontario Government to investigate the psychiatric clinics of Europe. This commission consisted of Hon. Dr. Willoughby, Dr. E. Ryan, of Kingston, and Dr. C. K. Clarke. They went to the most important of the psychiatric clinics in Germany and visited Great Britain and France as well, and on their return an exhaustive report was prepared and published. From this it was evident that while they regarded the care of the chronic insane as being well done in Europe, but not better than in Canada, yet in regard to the more recent cases of disease they were most impressed with what they saw in the Kraepelin Clinic at Munich. The findings of this report had a marked influence on the Hon. Mr. Hanna, and the sum of \$100,000 was included in the estimates for the commencement of a scheme which would involve the expenditure of at least \$500,000. It was hoped that a site could be found near the University and in the vicinity of the large new hospital about to be built on College Street. Dr. Bruce Smith warmly defended the scheme and gave it all the assistance he could from first to last, but much to the surprise of those who expected better things, some of the authorities in the institutions of the Province exhibited open hostility, apparently thinking that it would interfere with their personal glory.

An attempt was made to buy a site, but failed, and a diminution