

requisite to defray its expenses. We urge this course as much for the weal of the national as we do for that of the provincial associations.

A VALUABLE PUBLIC OFFICER.

The Associated Press despatches of the 10th December contained some interesting reading regarding a meeting of the County Council, which met in Hamilton. Quoting from the *Mail and Empire* we find the following:

"The County Council met this afternoon and Councillor Collins provided the usual fireworks. His remarks arose out of a consideration of the reports on the House of Refuge. He condemned in unmeasured terms the action of Dr. Bruce Smith in transferring certain insane patients from the asylum to the county refuge.

"'Give that man an inch and he'll take a mile.' scolded the councillor, who proceeded to rate the provincial inspector soundly. This was followed by a wholesale denunciation of county refuge management and hot exchanges passed between Collins and Warden Vance. A motion to adjourn was necessary in order to end the hostilities."

The foregoing should not be permitted to pass without some comment. We have watched the public career of Dr. Bruce Smith since he assumed his present office of Inspector of Hospitals and Charities. During the years that he has held this important and responsible position his reports have been models of clearness and usefulness. He has been a powerful stimulus urging the institutions under his jurisdiction to improve their accommodation; and as a result of these efforts the hospitals and charities of Ontario have been improved to such an extent that the account of the change reads like a fairy tale. It would be impossible to overestimate the work that has been accomplished by Dr. Bruce Smith in his official capacity.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS IN ONTARIO.

The forty-third annual report of the vital statistics of the Province of Ontario for the year ending 31st December, 1912, is to hand. With the growth of the Province this report is steadily growing. During the year 1912 there were recorded 58,870 births, 28,845 marriages, and 32,150 deaths. To make the report uniform with that of some other countries, still births are excluded.

In 1912 the birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 22.4, and the death rate was 12.4. The total increase of births over the year 1911 was 2,774. There were 1,256 illegitimate births. The marriage ratio