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ASYLUM MANAGEMENT.

It has now been authoritatively ascertained that nearly one hundred persons—mostly women—lost their lives in the dreadful holocaust at the Longue Pointe Asylum. In addition to these, a large, but uncertain, number of the patients have since died in consequence of the exposure, hardships, and increased mental excitement following the fire. It was, indeed, an appalling and a heartrending calamity, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the Government of this Province will take steps to ensure, as far as human foresight can, against any possibility of a repetition in the future of such a wholesale sacrifice of human life. It is a foregone conclusion that no radical change will be made in the method of caring for the insane in this Province. That method is the old everywhere-else discarded plan of farming out the lunatics—a plan, the fundamental defects of which have been exposed and condemned by all alienists of modern times—a plan which, with especial reference to this very Asylum, was shown by Dr. Tuke years ago to lie at the very root of the crude abuses and the mouldy mediævalism which pervaded all its departments. The opposite method, the direct care of the insane by the Government, which appoints the superintendents, builds the asylums, and controls all their operations—is that which commends itself to every intelligent man who gives the matter a moment's consideration; and is the method employed in our other Provinces where the management of the asylums has been highly spoken of by all experts who have visited them. There can be no comparison between the two systems. It is useless