

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

AN ISOLATION HOSPITAL BUILT AND OPERATED BY A
CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

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ISOLATION hospitals are a most important part of the equipment of a city department of health. The facilities of such hospitals to effectively quarantine all people suffering from communicable diseases, and also isolate perfectly one form of infection from another, is their first requisite. This second feature of perfect isolation of its compound parts, one from another, thus avoiding cross-infection, is a most important one. In small cities of 30,000 population and under it is a difficult proposition to have a perfect hospital and staff equal to all emergencies, and yet one whose upkeep is within the rational bounds of the layman's present-day conception. It is this feature of city ownership and management which makes the operation more difficult, because all health departments in Ontario depend primarily upon the board of health, a body of laymen, and finally upon the city council, for the acceptance of its estimates for current expenses and the granting of sufficient funds to meet the same. When the population of your city is from 20,000 to 30,000 you should have isolation hospital accommodation for one bed for every 1,000 population. This capacity is only required in time of epidemic, but your upkeep is constant. It is difficult to impress such boards of the advisability of such apparent over-investment, and only will they grant the same upon your convincing them of the feasibility of plans to keep down current expenses. I am of the opinion that the building I have had constructed in Fort William and the plan of management of the same accomplishes all the above-mentioned features of municipal ownership.

The Fort William Isolation Hospital is planned, as per cuts shown: A basement, whose floor is two feet above the level of the ground surface; a first and second hospital ward floor, both reached by stairways and balconies exposed entirely to air and sunlight, being built of iron and cement. Only the first hospital floor has yet been constructed, plumbing, heating, gas and electric conduits being already laid in reinforced concrete ceiling of first floor for supply of second floor.

The basement contains the heating apparatus for the entire building, the laundry and compressed air plant. The remainder of the basement is devoted to living quarters for the nurses when their side of the hospital is free of patients. When a nurse is attending a case she never leaves her ward day or night till the case is discharged from the hospi-