

absolute proof of the specific bacterium. Time and again different observers have described various bacteria, but no advance has been made towards establishing the exact cause of the disease; and its prevention is not established on the same precise lines as scarlet fever and other diseases of childhood. Being, however, a dangerous and at times a desperate malady, as evidenced in the August returns, it might be given better attention at the hands of the health officials, as although the law requires the reporting of all contagious and infectious diseases, it is generally made to read, scarlet fever, diphtheria and smallpox. It is often, too, a desperate illness to treat, there being no drug which can be recommended to in all cases reach the spot. Until such times as research shall establish a specific bacterium as the cause of whooping-cough, the treatment by antitoxic serum, which has been tried, remains empirical.

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The medical profession all over Ontario will receive with profound regret the announcement that Dr. Daniel Clark has retired from the active superintendency of the Toronto Provincial Hospital, and they will receive with equally strong regret the news that the Whitney Government will perpetuate that vicious policy of former governments in the Province of Ontario, namely, the appointing of superintendents and assistant physicians to these institutions from the party caucus. It was expected that there would be a radical change in this direction, and that no longer would medicine in this province be disgraced by such improper appointments. We are not saying one word about the professional qualifications of the gentleman who has succeeded to the position rendered vacant by the retirement of Dr. Clark. We only wish to reiterate once more our condemnation of the practice which passes over men trained in this special hospital service, for the man who knows absolutely nothing of the treatment of the insane as carried out in well-governed institutions. It seems to us, further, that if appointments of this character are to continue to obtain, men who have gained