

did not reach 400. It was then deemed by the Commissioners unsafe to increase the number of inmates, an opinion in which I fully concurred. Indeed, the Commissioners formed the conclusion after consultation with me, a course which I believe is usually pursued in public institutions under medical administration. I do not remember any occasion on which your Board discussed this subject in my presence, and the first intimation which I had of the opinion expressed by your Board to His Excellency reached me late in the year, on perusal of the printed report. Had your Board expressed to me the desire that I should increase the number of beds to 400, I would, as far as possible, have endeavoured to do so; but, at the same time, I should have requested your Board to designate the several sleeping-rooms into which I might introduce additional beds, for in the efforts which, both before and since reading the report, I have been making to increase the number of beds, I have felt great difficulty, and a most serious responsibility. It may not be a difficult matter to walk through the halls and dormitories of a lunatic asylum, in daylight, and to point out apparent vacant spaces into which additional sleepers may be put. Were the inmates all sane, the numbers might be augmented almost to suffocation, without any immediate flagrant result; but the inmates of a lunatic asylum cannot be thus huddled together without the most serious risk; and it is well known to your Board that those in the Toronto Asylum are, owing to the drafting off to the Branches of all the quiet or less dangerous, and the leaving here of all the opposite class, and to the fact that I have constantly endeavored to give first consideration and prompt admission to the most violent, noisy, and dangerous applicants, perhaps the most troublesome asylum population on this continent. Add to these considerations the fact, that out of 380 patients now in, only 36 (12 women and 24 men) have separate single bed-rooms. Each of our six wards has only eight single bed-rooms, to which have been added the small apartments intended and formerly used for clothes closets, making in all 57. Under the pressure of numerical exigency, 21 out of the 57 single bed-rooms are occupied each by two patients. The associated dormitories contain from five to fifteen beds each, and lodge the remaining patients. I do not desire to institute any comparison between the Toronto Asylum and that of Beauport, not because I am unprepared to do so, but because it is a Lower Canada private establishment, and so long as it meets the requirements of the intelligence and benevolence of the people using it, I desire not to obtrude my opinion. But comparing the Toronto Asylum with those of the United States, or with any of those of England, constructed within the last twenty years, the contrast as to the propor-

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