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REPORT
OF THE
TORONTO LYING-IN HOSPITAL,
FOR THE YEAR 1857.

Toronto now numbers 50,000 inhabitants, and from the progress which is being made in the mechanical and industrial arts, a large number of persons are in times of sickness and distress dependent upon the public charities for aid. To meet the wants of one class of sufferers, it was deemed advisable to establish a Lying-in Hospital, into which the wife of the labouring man might be admitted to receive care while he worked for the support of the family; and also to afford shelter to the absolutely destitute.

In presenting their Ninth Annual Report, the Committee of Management desire to call the attention of the Subscribers and friends of the Institution, to several particulars which they feel it to be their duty to urge, as essential not only to the increasing usefulness of the charity, but as affecting even its permanence. Since the opening of the Hospital, nine years ago, Five Hundred and Seventy-three women have been delivered within its walls, besides some few who have been attended at their own abodes; and with the exception of aid from Government amounting to the sum of £150, these females have been altogether supported from funds subscribed by private citizens of Toronto. The rapid increase of the population by immigration and otherwise is causing, (as was expected,) a very great pressure on the resources of the Hospital, and it will require a very powerful effort on the part of its friends, to place it in a position to meet the demands for accommodation and relief, that must necessarily continue to be made.

To meet these difficulties, which the Committee feel only require to be made public to be speedily removed, it is proposed to raise by subscription or otherwise, a sum not less than One Thousand Pounds, in order to secure the payment of a donation of Five Hundred Pounds, from a private source, promised to the Hospital when the first named sum shall have been raised. With this amount in hand, the Committee, on enquiry from competent authority, are assured that they could obtain a suitable building for accommodating 30 patients; and thus have a habitation for the sick, not only worthy of Toronto, but at a cheaper rental than they can possibly procure at this time. The Committee of Management beg to press this subject on the attention of the people of Toronto, as one which has the strongest claims on their sympathy and support; for there is not only no other institution of a similar kind in the city, to which the wife of the poor man may resort for care and support during one of the most trying periods of her life, but its doors are open to all, no matter what their phases of religious belief may be; and they may also demand and have if they please, such consolation as they may derive from the visits of their religious instructors.

The Committee desire also to direct attention to the fact, that since the opening of the Lying-in charity, there has been a decided diminution in the number of cases of Infanticide; and to the singular fact, (contrary to what was believed would be the result,) that only three of the women delivered within the house, being mothers of illegitimate offspring, have applied a second time for admission. And the Committee are aware, and gladly make known the circumstances, that a large number of patients who have been admitted into respectable families as wet nurses, have invariably been reformed, and in many instances have become respectable and orderly, many of them having married, to wit, six within the past year. Besides therefore, the Institution being merely a house of refuge in suffering, the Committee feel that they may in some sort demand support for it as a Reformatory House, where the erring sister is brought into contact with virtue and respectability, and being in some measure forced into the presence of religion, learns to value both as superior to vice and infamy.