

Dr. Charles O. Hickey has been appointed Superintendent of the Cobourg Asylum for Insane. We are told by the Toronto Independent Journal that he is a well known Conservative and represented Dundas in the House of Commons from '82 to '91. He was appointed Superintendent of the Morrisburg Canal in the early 90's, but upon the change of government at Ottawa, in 1896, was removed from office. He then resumed his medical practice at Morrisburg. Dr. Hickey graduated, B.A., from Victoria University in '63, and, M.D., from McGill University in '66. We are not told that he has ever given special attention to the study of the management of insane asylums.

It seems to be almost forgotten that there is such a thing as an asylum service, composed of superintendents with staffs of able and conscientious assistants, who have been paying particular attention to this subject for many years. Among them are such men as Dr. Beemer, of the Hamilton Asylum; Dr. Forster, of the Mimico Asylum; Dr. Ross, of the Toronto Asylum; Dr. Barber, Kingston Asylum, and Dr. Mitchell, to whom we have before referred. Why are these men ignored? Why is a man who graduated thirty-nine years ago supposed to be better qualified for the position as superintendent of an asylum than some of those men whose names we have mentioned? Is it because Dr. Hickey was a member of Parliament for years, or because he was a superintendent of a canal for years that he is supposed to be qualified for this position? Is this a non-political appointment?

Upon the whole, we consider the recent appointments, whether they be called political or not, are excellent; but we regret that good men in the service have been overlooked and humiliated. Even one promotion would have given some encouragement to a worthy staff. If, however, we are mistaken, and the assistants are not good and faithful servants, they should be dismissed. We want an efficient and well-trained asylum service.