

tingencies, you will realize that it is all we can do to furnish the patients with absolute necessities, to say nothing of those luxuries which the sick and those who care for them are always considered as having a right to receive. It appears to me to be false economy to be thus niggardly to this most important service. Although the building contains four wards, our appropriation can only permit us ordinarily to open two. We, therefore, care for scarlatina and diphtheria patients only. At the present time the extreme north end is devoted to our three smallpox patients, with a complete separate staff, but this would not be possible were it in winter time. During 1899, the sum of \$9000 was spent in repairing the old building, but the result is by no means satisfactory. At best the hospital, thus patched up, can only serve for a couple of years longer. One of the first claims upon the civic treasury, in the near future, must be the sum required for the construction of a new civic hospital. I would submit for your discussion some of the propositions that have been laid before us in this regard. First, the construction of a new hospital on the pavilion plan, without separation of patients as to religious belief, at a cost of say \$50,000, containing from 6 to 8 wards. Secondly, to induce our Protestant population to give the money necessary to erect a contagious and infectious hospital for their own, the land to be supplied by the city and the present building to be assigned to Roman Catholic patients only. Third, the resumption of the old practice of placing half of the present hospital under the control of a Catholic and half under the control of a Protestant committee. I believe that the present Council is prepared to deal fairly with this question, when those best qualified to judge are unanimous as to what is for the interests of all.

The hospital as it exists to-day is, I believe, as well managed as the limitations of the case will permit. Dr. J. E. Laberge, the physician in charge, is energetic and apparently most anxious to give satisfaction. He is assisted by Miss Annie Montgomery, matron and head nurse, recently arrived from Toronto, where she had charge of the contagious and infectious diseases hospital of that city. The nursing staff usually consists of a trained nurse and four or five probationers in the last half of their term and two or three in the first half. The wages paid are not such as to attract many applicants, but the staff in the main is faithful and much unappreciated good work is carried on by the nurses at the Civic Hospital. I wish your Society would name a sub-committee, consisting of two or three of its members, to act as visiting governors, to examine with members of our committee, say once a month, the Civic Hospital, with a view of making such improvements as our limited revenue will permit.