

of the country, consequent upon its development. No one who has any knowledge of the demands made upon the Ministers of the Crown in the past, can question the appointment of a Minister of Education, nor that of Public Works, much less the recent change which placed the Premier of the Province in a position where he could guide our destinies as a Province, free from the cares incident to the management of a department.

Of the present ministers of the Crown, the Hon. the Provincial Secretary is the one upon whom chiefly rests the responsibility of those branches which appertain to the health of the people, viz., (1) Hospital and Gaol Inspection, (2) Hospitals for the Mentally Diseased, (3) Provincial Board of Health, (4) Vital Statistics (Registrar-General), and (5) Neglected Children. In addition to these the following might be placed in the same category, viz., Factory Inspection, which is delegated to the care of the Minister of Agriculture, though just what relationship can be claimed officially to exist between the tilling of the ground or the breeding of cattle, and the supervision of factories, their general sanitary arrangement, and the method adopted to protect the life of the artizan, I have endeavored to ascertain, but so far without success.

The Provincial Secretary, in addition to performing the functions of a Minister of Health, is called upon to administer the License Branch, which, of itself, calls for a considerable portion of his time. He is also the Minister of the Crown, to supervise the registration and inspection of incorporated companies, the issuance of marriage and automobile licenses, and performing the thousand and one duties incident to the office of a Secretary of State.

And as to the demands made upon this minister, one has but to visit his office, when it will be found that the daily number of visitors far exceeds that of any other of his colleagues, and the questions upon which he has to decide are as diverse as one could wish them to be; and from the many branches under his care, it can well be imagined that a large proportion of it must relate to subjects more or less of a medical character.

It must not be supposed that this vast amount of medical work has always been in existence; indeed, it is quite the contrary. It can readily be supposed, how, in 1867, when there were only two hospitals for the mentally diseased, with 951 patients, the work incident to what is incorrectly called Asylums, could be easily taken up by the Provincial Secretary; but in the nearly four decades since Confederation, there has not only been expansion in this particular branch of the service, but the same may be said of every branch of the department.

The hospitals just referred to have increased to nine, with a