

THE ONTARIO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

The estimates of the recent session of the Ontario Legislature make liberal provision for the public institutions.

The Hospital for Insane, Brockville, \$113,106; Hospital for Insane, Cobourg, \$28,000; Hospital for Insane, Hamilton, \$171,127; Hospital for Insane, Kingston, \$119,193; Hospital for Insane, London, \$164,000; Hospital for Insane, Mimico, \$102,550; Hospital for Idiots, Orillia, \$88,467; Hospital for Insane, Penetanguishene, \$68,765; Hospital for Insane, Toronto, \$155,947; Hospital for Epileptics, Woodstock, \$38,736; Central Prison, Toronto, \$75,040; Central Prison Industries, \$63,470; Mercer Reformatory, Toronto, \$30,925. This makes a grand total of \$1,219,326.

To this must be added about \$150,000 which is the per diem grant to hospitals for such patients as do not contribute more than 70 cents per day.

We have long felt that as far as possible, asylums, prisons, and epileptic colonies should be made self-supporting. As an object lesson in this direction we would commend the study of the Craig Colony for Epileptics. There is a wide difference between making the inmates of these institutions do something towards their own support, and that of converting these institutions into commercial industries.

It is good for the occupants of our asylums, prisons, and epileptic homes to be given useful and suitable employment. This is now being done; but not to the extent it should. The burden on the community at large could be materially lightened.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

The report is just to hand for the year 1908. It contains as usual much interesting matter.

For the year 1906 we learn that the deaths from infectious diseases ran as follows: smallpox 1, scarlatina 92, diphtheria 283, measles 119, whooping cough 139, typhoid fever 425, tuberculosis 1,933.

For the year 1907 the deaths were: smallpox 2, scarlatina 56, diphtheria 265, measles 73, whooping cough 146, typhoid fever 697, tuberculosis 1,996.

The number ill was of course very many times greater. This is altogether too heavy a death toll from preventable causes.

Take the 697 deaths from typhoid fever and look at them from a monetary point. Each life is worth, on ordinary averages of age and earning power, \$1,700. This would give the large sum of \$1,184,900