

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

The report of the medical superintendent of the Rockwood Lunatic Asylum has come to hand. It is a very able report and contains much valuable statistical and other information.

The Medical Superintendent, Dr. Dickson, strongly advises the separation of the asylum from the penitentiary with which it has been so long connected, and 'it is exceedingly desirable that this should be done as early as possible. It is a very great mistake, this mingling of insane convicts with the non-criminal class.

The Dr. refers to the defective state of the heating apparatus, and recommends an improvement in this respect. He also complains of the imperfect ventilation of the building, and insists upon the carrying out of a plan submitted by him in his last annual report which, he feels confident, would obviate the difficulty.

A comparative statement is given of the annual cost of maintenance of each patient in the different asylums of the Province, which is as follows:—

Provincial Asylum, Toronto.....	\$200 00
London Asylum.....	167 69
Rockwood Asylum.....	143 00

With regard to the subject of amusements for the insane, which is considered so valuable in the treatment of this class of patients, he states that sacred music is the only entertainment he has been able to afford them. This is really an important matter and should have the immediate attention of the Commissioners.

We have also received the 14th Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Provincial Hospital, Halifax. The most pressing want in regard to this valuable institution is, according to the report of Dr. De Wolf, the Medical superintendent, the want of room, and he strongly urges the immediate completion of the Hospital.

The patients appear to have been well treated in the way of sleigh drives, steamboat excursions, theatricals, concerts, &c., and the heart of many a poor soul gladdened. Most managers bear testimony to the good effects of such kindness in the treatment and management of insane patients.

The Dr. also expresses his thanks for the kindness of the Commissioners in giving him leave of absence to attend the convention of Superintendents of Insane Asylums at Hartford, Conn., and also for permission to accept a professorship in Dalhousie Medical College.

The report is carefully prepared and contains a large amount of useful information to those interested.